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THE TIMES

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45p

US fires 30 cruise missiles at Baghdad nuclear weapons site

President Bush marked his final weekend in power by ordering a huge missile attack against an Iraqi nuclear site. Bill Clinton now faces a serious military clash in his first days in office

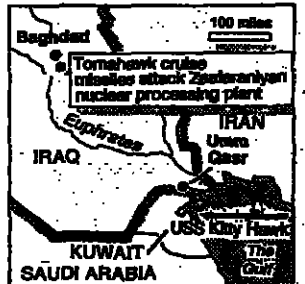
FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN BAGHDAD
AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA last night launched a second military strike against Iraq, firing Tomahawk cruise missiles on a nuclear weapons facility near Baghdad.

Pentagon officials said at least 30 Tomahawks had been fired from American warships in the Gulf. The strike came on the second anniversary of the start of the Gulf war and, in an eerie replay of that night, the skies over Baghdad were lit up dramatically by Iraqi searchlights, anti-aircraft fire and surface-to-air missiles.

The full extent of last night's strike was not immediately apparent, but it was clearly more serious than last Wednesday's attack on missile batteries in Iraq's southern no-fly zone.

The al-Rashid Hotel in central Baghdad, where most visiting foreign journalists stay, was damaged during last night's attack. One Iraqi witness said a missile landed in the garden of the hotel.



creating a 10ft deep crater and smashing part of the lobby. One person was reported to have been killed, with several others injured.

Martin Fletchier, the White House spokesman, said after the allied raid that the Iraqi plant "made components for Iraq's nuclear enrichment programme, including parts of its electro-magnetic isotope separators which Iraq has used in its programme to create nuclear weapons."

Kuwait said last night that Iraq had started to dismantle six Iraqi border posts inside Kuwaiti territory in compliance with UN demands, which had been the subject of a dispute with the UN.

The new offensive followed a day of renewed aerial skirmishes in the northern air exclusion zone, which led to

the shooting down of one Iraqi MIG fighter by an American F16, and a growing dispute between Baghdad and the United Nations over access for Western inspection teams.

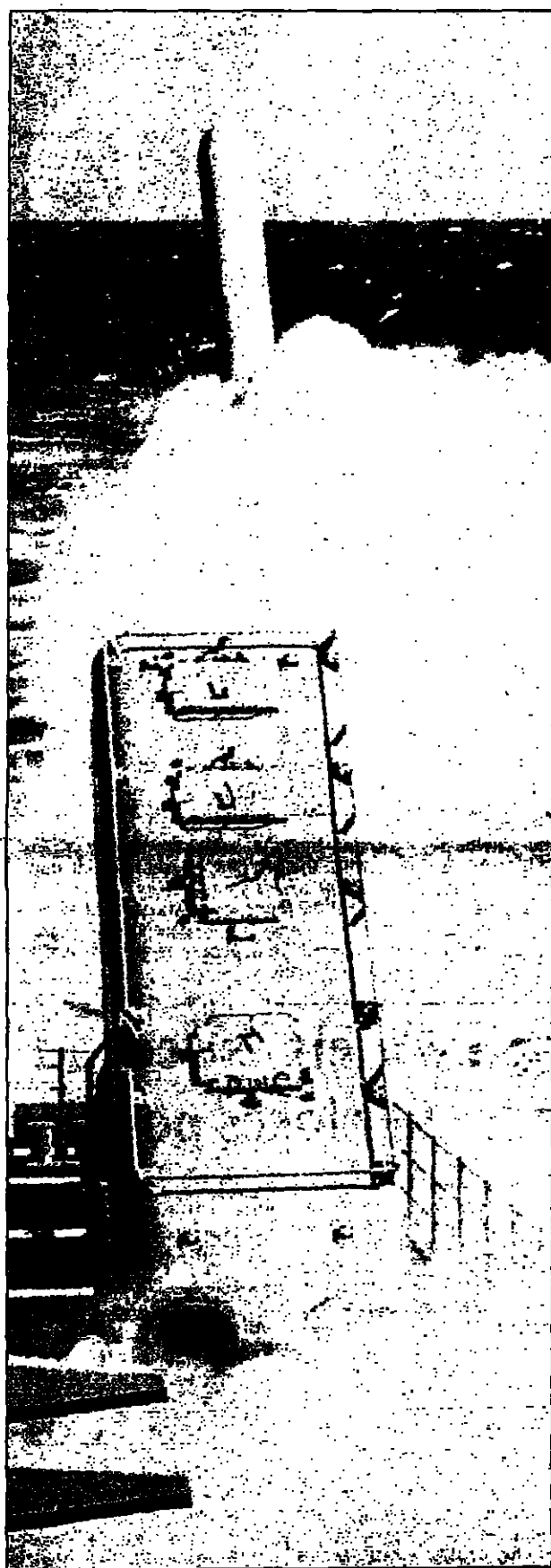
A further conflict took place when three Iraqi soldiers crossed into Kuwaiti territory and were challenged by a border patrol. One Iraqi soldier was killed in the exchange of gunfire, a second was captured and the third escaped.

The Bush administration said the incident in the north had flared when Iraqi anti-aircraft guns fired at two American F16 warplanes at about 10am, Baghdad time. Iraqi MIG aircraft began to fly in the UN-imposed exclusion zone and, shortly after 11am, an Iraqi missile battery locked its radar onto an American F4 plane, which fired a missile at the battery. It was uncertain whether the battery was destroyed, but at 12.38am an American F16 destroyed an Iraqi MIG-23 inside the exclusion zone with an air-to-air missile.

President Saddam Hussein later challenged both the northern and southern no-fly zones in a defiant 90-minute televised speech marking the Gulf war's second anniversary. He also stated that the Iraqi plane had not been flying in the no-fly area at all. He told viewers after a day of government-orchestrated celebrations that Iraq was on the verge of a final victory and threatened his Arab neighbours and criticised them for their "treacherous" alliance with the West.

President Bush ordered the attack barely 72 hours before leaving office and as his successor, Bill Clinton, was travelling to Washington for the start of his inaugural festivities. The attack followed intensive consultations between Mr Bush, John Major and President Mitterrand — his coalition partners — and the outgoing American president's top national security advisers. Mr Clinton was also kept fully informed.

Downing Street said last night that the strike "has our full support" and the government had been fully involved. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said yesterday it was clear that the Iraqis were determined to ignore the will of the international community. He added that additional military action was inevitable if Baghdad continued to breach UN resolutions. After disclosing the downing of the Iraqi MIG in a BBC television interview, Mr Rifkind said: "It therefore does become a distinct possibility that action of that kind may be necessary. It's not something anyone wants."



The Tomahawk: near-guaranteed accuracy

Tomahawks deliver huge, accurate punch

THE attack by up to 40 Tomahawk cruise missiles on a single target south of Baghdad is unprecedented. The impact of about 40,000lb of high explosive would have been devastating (Michael Evans writes).

The US Navy fired a total of 271 Tomahawks during the Gulf war. They were the most accurate weapon system of the war, with a success rate of 85 per cent. The choice of the Tomahawk was clearly made

because of its accuracy. With a range of more than 800 miles it should arrive at its destination with an error margin of only ten yards from its target.

The main reason for a cruise missile attack instead of another air raid, however, was to avoid any possibility of an American aircraft being shot down. This could have provided Baghdad with a captured pilot to parade on television on the day of Bill Clinton's inauguration as US president.

Revellers 'risked stampede'

BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT AND ANGELA MACKAY

LONDON came within minutes of a disaster that could have cost the lives of dozens of revellers in Trafalgar Square on December 31 last year, a senior Metropolitan Police officer has disclosed.

Two barriers buckled as 120,000 people squeezed into the square and surrounding streets to usher in the new year. Some officers thought they might lose control of one of the largest crowds since two women were crushed to death in the square on New Year's Eve 10 years ago. The already serious prob-

lems were exacerbated by two IRA bomb warnings just after midnight, which would have scattered long standing new-year celebration plans. The Savoy Hotel was partially cleared, but no bombs were found.

Tony Speed, deputy assistant commissioner in charge of central London, will tomorrow tell a Scotland Yard briefing how close they came to a disaster many times worse than that in Hong Kong three weeks ago, where 20 people died among a crowd of 20,000. He is ham-

pered by pictures from the Hillsborough disaster of four years ago when 95 people died. "All the conditions of Hillsborough and Hong Kong were in the square," Mr Speed said.

Mr Speed said he understood that some companies were preparing proposals to commercialise New Year's Eve at Trafalgar Square, possibly by staging laser shows. "This would encourage even bigger crowds and that is the last thing we want."

Fingers crossed, page 6



Anger on the streets: Iraqi women demonstrating against the US in a Baghdad protest over last week's air strikes

Clinton nears journey's end

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

WILLIAM Jefferson Clinton, following in the footsteps of his celebrated namesake, yesterday processed in triumph from Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home of Monticello to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

The journey began the week of the presidential inauguration, merging historical symbolism with Mr Clinton's brand of populist politics. In 1801 Jefferson rode by horse and carriage to take office as third president of the United States. Bill Clinton, repeating his campaign strategy, entered the capital by bus.

"Thomas Jefferson was associated with the populism of his time," he said, before setting off, "and that bus has become a symbol of the populism of the campaign". The 42nd US presidential inauguration, which reaches a climax on Wednesday when Mr Clinton is sworn in, has as its theme "An American Reunion", and yesterday's 125-mile parade was intended to illustrate Mr Clinton's anti-elitist style and his message of national reconciliation. The "buscade" began from the home built by the author of the Declaration of Independence and ended with a rally at a memorial to the man who issued the Emancipation Proclamation — thus combining the two presidents, Jefferson and Lincoln, whose legacies Mr Clinton has claimed.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of Jefferson's birth, and Clinton began yesterday's celebrations with a public seminar on the life and works of the "sage of Monticello". Before an audience of 2,500 people, crammed into

the elegant gardens of Jefferson's mountaintop home, Bill Clinton and Al Gore, the vice-president-elect, earnestly discussed one of America's Founding Fathers.

Mr Clinton emphasised his admiration for Jefferson, and reiterated campaign themes, including education, employment and the need for change. Jefferson, he said, had insisted that "each generation would have to change to meet the needs of that time."

Jefferson chose to travel to Washington in the company of just one man, a hired free black named Davy Bowles. Clinton was yesterday carried to the capital in a vast, rumbling cavalcade of 13 luxury buses (courtesy of the American Bus Association), dozens of motorcycle outriders and a police unit.

Both Jefferson and Mr Clinton broke their journeys in the little town of Culpeper — Mr Clinton to attend a service at the 200-year-old Baptist church there. However, what Democrats had hoped would be a straightforward joyous celebration of their victory was marred by the outbreak of new hostilities in Iraq. At the moment when he might have expected the nation to concentrate on him alone, Mr Clinton arrived in a capital with most of its attention elsewhere.

Mixed in with the cheering, people lining his route were demonstrators holding placards reading: "Give us Hope, not War", and Clinton's off-expressed wish that he would not have to spend too much time dealing with foreign affairs was in doubt before he has taken office.



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Ministers consider making long-term jobless do temporary work



Shepherd: has examined American-style schemes

BY PHILIP BASSETT
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

PROPOSALS to make the long-term unemployed undertake temporary work in return for their benefits are being studied by Downing Street as ministers brace themselves for a further big rise in unemployment this week.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment, currently just over 2.9 million, is expected to rise by at least 40,000 in figures to be published by the government on Thursday, raising the prospect of more than three million being jobless either next month or in March. A new cabinet group set up to examine fresh

employment initiatives is regarded by senior MPs as recognition by the prime minister that the government must be seen to be doing more to fight unemployment, although ministers admit that there is a limit to how much can be achieved by special measures. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, looks likely to announce fresh measures to combat unemployment as part of his Budget package on March 16.

The cabinet group, under Lord Wakeham, will include Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, John Patten, the education secretary, Gillian Shepherd, the employment secretary, Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, and

Michael Heseltine, the Board of Trade president.

There will be pressure for extra funds for training and to expand the business start-up scheme. Other ideas to be considered include encouraging the jobless to sign up at colleges of further education and improve their qualifications without losing all their benefit. Another proposal is the expansion of the work trials scheme, which allows firms to take on unemployed people who are still paid benefit. One of the most controversial ideas may be an expansion of the Employment Action scheme, which provides some temporary work for the jobless.

The prime minister's policy unit

and Mrs Shepherd have been sent detailed proposals for a version of an American-style "workfare" scheme, under which the unemployed have to accept community work or lose their unemployment benefit. Ministers have previously shied away from introducing such a scheme in Britain, but the employment department is now testing a number of workfare-style projects in East Anglia, based on ideas put forward by Ralph Howell, MP for Norfolk North.

For long an idea favoured only by the radical right, workfare will be given a new boost towards legitimacy this week with the inauguration of Bill Clinton as United States

president. Mr Clinton has long been an enthusiastic advocate of the workfare system.

The policy group Full Employment UK, which has close links with the employment department and whose ideas have found favour before with Conservative ministers, has produced closely costed proposals to be published today.

It is proposing a £637 million scheme under which the long-term unemployed would be obliged to undertake temporary work in return for their benefits. From April next year, everyone unemployed for 18 months would be guaranteed work for three days a week. In return, they would lose their income support but

would receive "contract income" of the same amount, plus £10 a week and an extra £2.50 for each dependent child for those in greatest need.

The group's proposal says: "There are bound to be some who describe the proposed new contract as tantamount to workfare. Certainly, the contract would be founded firmly on the principle of reciprocal responsibility, which we do not seek to duck." It urges the government to reject the pejorative language of American workfare and insists that the scheme is different because it would be a last resort rather than a first resort with no requirement to take part until after 18 months of unemployment.

Labour reformers call for end to formal union links

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FIERCE internal divisions over Labour's future direction intensified yesterday as the party's leading reformers called for formal links with the trade unions to be broken and for trade unionists instead to be recruited as full party members.

As the battle inside Labour's review group on the Labour-union link raged, Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary and a prominent "moderniser", called for a restructuring of Labour membership so that more trade union levy payers could become full party members.

At the same time he made plain that there should be no formal union involvement in the selection of Labour candidates and election of party leader. He called for "evolutionary" changes which would result in the power currently exerted by unions through the block vote being replaced by unionists wielding their influence as individual members of the party.

He strongly opposed the plan backed by senior union leaders for unionists to be given the right to "associate" membership that would enable them to vote in parliamentary selections if they were levy-payers. He said there could be situations in which 700 party members in a constituency were suddenly

■ In the debate over Labour's future, "modernisers" are openly calling for a review of the role played by unions

faced with 700 levy-payers who had been signed up by a union: they were not party members but they would have equivalent voting rights.

Roy Hattersley, the former deputy leader, was even more radical. He proposed that Labour's relationship with the unions should be similar to that of the US Democrats, with their labour unions. Nobody had any doubt that they were in partnership but there was not the same formal structural relationship that existed in Britain. The Republicans were not able to say that the unions dominated Democrat policies not simply by providing money but playing a part in the command structure and decision-making process. "That is why I want to see the block vote go, that is why I think the block vote must go, partly because it does identify us too much with one special interest, partly because we cannot build a bigger and better democracy in this country unless we have rather more democracy in the Labour party," he said.

The remarks by Mr Blair and Mr Hattersley, on the BBC's *On the Record*, came as it emerged that the review committee report is to be delayed after complaints by

advocates of one member one vote, including Mr Blair, that their case had been insufficiently presented in the draft report presented last week.

It is expected to be redrafted and presented in February when John Smith, the Labour leader, will put forward his views. The outcome of the review is crucial in the current "Clintonisation" debate between the so-called traditionalists and modernisers.

Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, said yesterday that the modernisers were not trying to detach themselves from what was best in the Labour party. They were emphasising that it was important to concentrate on the best and strip away some of the "paraphernalia and barnacles" that have stuck over the decades. He likened his mission for Labour to that of Bill Clinton's for the Democrats. "Bill Clinton was fortunate and skilful in conveying the idea that the person who could be part of the change and contrive the change in the Democratic party could do the same job for America."

Mr Blair said Labour must face up to the need to reassess its direction and shape after losing four elections.



Fine cut: the actress Joanna Lumley holds a crystal-glass elephant at the launch in London yesterday of a scheme to raise money for wildlife. Swarovski, the fine-cut crystal manufacturers, is to pay £1 to the Born Free foundation, of which Miss Lumley is a trustee, for every limited-edition

elephant figurine sold. At the reception yesterday, the company presented a cheque for £1,000 to Virginia McKenna, another trustee of the foundation, who starred in the film *Born Free*. The elephant figures are available only to members of the Swarovski Collectors' Society.

Teenager in coma found to be pregnant

A teenager still in a coma four weeks after being knocked down by a car may not have known she was pregnant. Melanie Douglas, 19, from Castle Vale, Birmingham, was found to be eight weeks pregnant during a routine ultrasound investigation at Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield.

Melanie's mother, Marie Langley, said: "It has come as a shock to both the father of the baby and her father and me. The baby is safe. If at any stage a decision has to be made about the pregnancy it will be done by us in conjunction with the hospital and specialists."

Miss Douglas suffered severe head injuries in the accident on December 16. A spokesman for the hospital said that she was on a life support system for feeding but was not on a ventilator and that the baby was "healthy, stable and alive". He said: "Melanie is receiving the best care we can offer but it is too early to say what the outcome of her condition will be." Doctors were still "fact finding" and did not know what the future held for her or her baby.

Belfast men kill woman

Gunsmen yesterday shot dead a woman in north Belfast, the fifth victim of sectarian murders this year. Police said the woman, 27, was shot dead while visiting a flat in Shore Road. They said that when the male occupant of the flat answered the door, he was confronted by two men, one of them armed. When the woman approached, shots were fired and she died instantly. Police said they had established no motive for the killing and were uncertain whether the intended target was the woman or the man, who was uninjured but treated for shock. Police said that just before the shooting a vehicle was hijacked. It was abandoned a short distance away after the attack.

£4m drug haul at port

Customs officers yesterday seized 40 kilos of amphetamines with a street value of more than £4 million during a search of a car at Harwich, Essex. The drugs were concealed in the boot of an Audi which arrived at the port from the Hook of Holland on Saturday night. Two people were arrested and were being questioned last night by customs officers. Douglas Tweedie, chief investigating officer, said: "This is a significant seizure and demonstrates that customs controls at the borders are still effective after the introduction of the single market." A further kilo of amphetamines was seized yesterday morning in a separate incident at the port. Two people are due to appear before Clacton magistrates today.

Chancellor buoyant on economy

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont gave his most bullish forecast since Black Wednesday yesterday, announcing that growth will be higher than 1 per cent this year.

In an interview on *Breakfast* with Frost on BBC1, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in a buoyant mood, saying Britain's economy could well grow faster than that of Germany.

"We have seen good trends in retail sales, we have seen good trends in motor car sales and in motor car production. Obviously I think one has to be cautious before ringing the bell and saying the recession is over but there are encouraging signs."

Asked if he was still projecting 1 per cent growth, Mr Lamont said: "Yes. It could be better. But these things as I have constantly, constantly said are terribly uncertain. But I think it is the case that it is quite possible you might see the British economy perform rather better than some European economies. I would not be at all surprised if the British economy grew more quickly this year than the German economy."

The jobless total, however, will soon exceed three million again, and the prime minister, believing that unemployment is slowing the return of confidence, has established a new cabinet group under Lord Wakeham, the Lords leader, to seek new proposals.

Thatcher and Benn unite to seek Maastricht referendum

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

STRONG support from Baroness Thatcher for a British referendum on Maastricht were met with roars of approval and fluttering union flags yesterday as 800 Euro-sceptics from all parties marched through London calling for the treaty to be put to a popular vote.

Only Tony Benn, the veteran Labour MP who joined the Tory MPs William Cash and Sir Teddy Taylor on the rally platform, refrained from applauding, puffing sternly on his pipe, eyes firmly fixed on the ground.

In a statement read to the crowd in Trafalgar Square, Lady Thatcher warned that the Maastricht treaty would

transfer power to the "bureaucracy in Brussels at the expense of democracy in Westminster."

"I believe the people do not want the treaty and that they prefer to keep to our present commitments with Europe and go no further," she said in the statement. "There is an easy way to find out. Hold a referendum."

Mr Benn, who has also long campaigned for a referendum, clearly found the experience of agreeing with Lady Thatcher a strange one. It was said to be the first time in a long political career that he had shared a platform with Conservative MPs, at least other than to argue with them.

"Maastricht makes the biggest constitutional change this century, and it will not work without popular consent," he said.

Most of those at yesterday's rally, the start of what promises to be a robust pro-referendum campaign in coming months, had never marched in protest before. They had come, from Scotland and Wales, Hampshire and the West Country, Henley and the Home Counties, braving cold winds to lodge their support for the campaign.

In spite of organisers' assurances to the contrary, many of them were there to stress their hostility to all things European.

The police had been warned by the Campaign for the Irish Sea Referendum to expect thousands of protesters, but the organisers denied they were disappointed with the hundreds who gathered for the march to Trafalgar Square at the Reformers Tree in Hyde Park, where John Bright held his great rally shortly before the 1867 Reform Act. "We always said we did not know how many people to expect, and would have been happy if 50 turned up," Peter Lewis, campaign chairman, said.

The rally culminated in a torch-lit vigil and musical rendition of the Maastricht treaty outside Downing Street. Mr Lewis, an English lecturer at Loughborough University who used to exercise his tenor voice in his village choir, chanted his way through the first few pages of the treaty's text.



A point to make: Tony Benn with Teddy Taylor

New alert as second tanker loses power

BY JOHN YOUNG

HURRICANE force winds battered the British coast yesterday, leading to a new alert off Shetland as the oil tanker *Ambra Dolphin* lost power in huge seas.

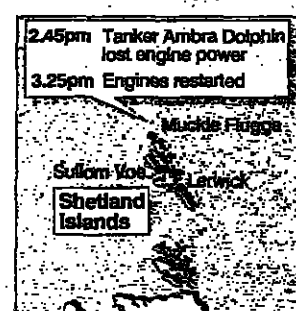
The *Ambra Dolphin*'s engines developed a fault only ten miles off Muckle Flugga at the northern tip of the Shetland Islands. The incident happened less than two weeks after the *Braer*, carrying 84,500 tonnes of crude oil, grounded and broke up on the southern end of the islands.

The 87,000 tonne *Ambra Dolphin* was in ballast, however, and the crew was able to restart the engines about 40 minutes after the alarm was raised at 2.45pm.

A huge wave also struck a car ferry in the Irish Sea, injuring 17 passengers and five crew members. The *Stena Hibernia* was en route from Dun Laoghaire in the Irish Republic to Holyhead, Anglesey. Many of the 363 people on board were thrown from bunks and seats, and the ship listed when vehicles on the car deck shifted.

Rescue services, including two Royal Air Force helicopters, were put on standby as the vessel headed for port. Only one of those taken to hospital was said to be seriously hurt.

Peter Gurrie, a lorry driver aboard, said: "It was like a bull in a china shop. People were being thrown all over the place, and I don't think there was a glass or bottle that wasn't smashed. There wasn't any panic, but people were obviously shocked. The crew



2.45pm Tanker *Ambra Dolphin* lost engine power
3.25pm Engines restarted
Shetland Islands

were telling them just to lie down where they were."

In Scotland, the RAF was called in to help police and local rescue services to deal with flooding in the Perth, Píochry and Forfar areas. Members of the Leuchars mountain rescue team were sent to Píochry, and a Wessex helicopter winched two men from a van after their vehicle was trapped in flood water.

In the Highlands, winds brought down power lines, and there were warnings of fresh blizzards as well as flooding. Landslides blocked the A82 Inverness to Glasgow road at Letterfinlay and Glenoe, and the railway between Inverness and Perth. The river Dee burst its banks in several places, and the A93 was swamped by floods near the Queen's Balmoral estate.

Gusts of up to 149mph were recorded in the Cairngorms, and more than 100mph at Nevis Range and Glen Shee. Gales caused havoc across northeast England, battering homes and closing roads, although there were no reports of injuries.

Seals concern, page 5
Photograph, page 18

Restaurant 'bloodbath'

Armed raiders left a restaurant in a "bloodbath" early yesterday after attacking three staff, almost killing one man. Another worker in the Mughal Brasserie in Whitechapel Road, east London, lost a finger and the third had fingertips cut off as they attempted to fight off the raiders. The staff, all bleeding heavily, were locked in a lavatory for almost three hours before escaping and calling for help from a first-floor window. The attack took place when three men entered the restaurant, drew a knife and demanded cash. Det Chief Insp Ed Williams said: "The premises are like a bloodbath. This is one of the worst attacks I have ever seen." About £1,000 in cash and cheques was stolen by the gang.

Police to question skier

French police hope to start questioning today the French skier who crashed into a British teenager on the ski slopes, causing her death. Nicola Jones, 18, of Horley, Surrey, suffered a fractured skull and died instantly after the skier hurtled into her, throwing her 20 yards, at the French Alpine resort of Tignes. The man, thought to be in his 20s, is in hospital with severe head and back injuries. A spokesman for the Gatwick Penta Hotel, where Miss Jones worked part-time, said: "Nicola was a very pretty, friendly and polite person, well-liked by staff and customers." The accident happened on Friday. Miss Jones and her mother Jacqueline were staying at a chalet with ten other people.

Sisters killed in crash

Two young sisters died after the car they were travelling in collided with another car on the A10 at Buckland, near Royston, Hertfordshire. Marie Lozeau, nine, and Sasha, two, from Buntingford, Hertfordshire, died at the scene of the crash. Their father Alan, 35, is in a serious condition at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, with head, leg, chest and internal injuries. A spokesman for Hertfordshire police said that the accident was believed to have happened when a Vauxhall Astra tried to overtake another vehicle and collided with Mr Lozeau's Honda Prelude. Police said they were anxious to speak to witnesses, especially the driver of the car that was being overtaken.

Mobile phone warning

Motorists who use their car phones on petrol station forecourts are in danger of blowing themselves up, Shell said yesterday. The oil company, which has printed 100,000 leaflets for distribution at petrol stations, said that the phones give off electrical energy which can be picked up by metal objects and cause sparks. A spokesman for Celfnet, the mobile phone company, said: "We don't deny there is a minute risk in theory. But the leaflet puts it all out of proportion and could make people worry needlessly."

Rifkind to press cabinet for 10-year reprieve of Rosyth dockyard

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM Rifkind, the defence secretary, is expected to ask a cabinet committee this week to sanction a ten-year reprieve for Rosyth naval dockyard in Fife instead of total closure.

Although naval officials have advised him to back the "hard option" of closing the yard and transferring

all nuclear submarine refitting work to Devonport, Mr Rifkind is understood to favour a ten-year guarantee of work for Rosyth rather than lose more than 14,000 jobs in the area.

After months of uncertainty about the fate of the royal dockyards in Fife and Devon, Mr Rifkind will put his case to a cabinet committee on Tuesday before going to the full cabinet. A defence department confirmed yesterday that a final

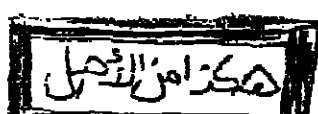
decision was due "shortly". In spite of fierce last-minute lobbying, Mr Rifkind, MP for Edinburgh, Pentlands, and a former Scottish secretary, appears confident that his argument will be backed by most of the cabinet because of the political backlash from heavy job losses. In spite of speculation that John Major backs the hard option of a swift rundown of Rosyth, a senior ministerial source disclosed yesterday that the

prime minister is keeping an open mind and is sympathetic to Mr Rifkind's case. Closing Rosyth, with the immediate loss of 4,000 dockyard jobs, could double unemployment in the Fife area and have implications for Scotland's economy.

A gradual rundown of the yard, with a phased transfer of refitting work to Devonport, Plymouth, would dampen the outcry from Scottish MPs, councillors and trade

unionists. However, they still fear that a ten-year plan will blight the area unless schemes are set up immediately to create new jobs. There is also a question over the type of work left at Rosyth and whether the yard would be involved in refitting both the *Polaris* fleet and the successor *Trident* submarines. The navy board recommended closing Rosyth as part of contraction of the navy after the cold war.

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Lamont deplores the publication of 'Camillagate' tape

By Philip Webster and Alan Hamilton

NORMAN Lamont yesterday denounced as deplorable the publication of the so-called Camillagate tape purporting to be a conversation between the Prince of Wales and his friend Camilla Parker Bowles.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is the first cabinet minister to comment on the recent spate of royal disclosures, said that he had huge sympathy with the royal family, who had been badly treated by the press.

"It is not sufficient justification to say that the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales is a matter of public interest," he said. "Of course it is a matter of public interest, but that does not mean that private telephone calls should be recorded and then those recordings published."

"I have huge sympathy for the royal family in all the traumas they have been through. They have been badly treated by the press. I do not think those tapes should have been published. Everyone, including the royal family, is entitled to privacy in their telephone calls."

The full text of the intimate telephone conversation, alleged to be between the prince and Mrs Parker Bowles, was published yesterday in the Sunday Mirror and The People, both owned by Mirror Group Newspapers.

Mr Lamont said that publication was "interfering with people's right to communicate on the telephone, and I think it is

deplorable they should have been published."

Buckingham Palace will not comment on the affair, allowing speculation on the prince's future to run riot. Yesterday's newspapers made stabs at a wide range of options attributed to him, from a determination to "tough it out" to a desire to abandon his position and pass the succession directly to his elder son, Prince William.

Friends and close associates remain in no doubt that the prince intends to ride the storm and to remain heir to the throne, although they acknowledge that he would do so only as long as he was certain that the majority of public opinion was on his side. Yesterday it appeared that it was. Spontaneous applause and cries of "Good old Charlie" from a crowd of 300 well-wishers greeted the prince as he and the Duke of Edinburgh strode ahead of the royal party on their way to church at Sandringham, in what appeared to be a display of family solidarity.

Smiling and looking cheerful and composed, the prince joined the congregation at the Church of St Mary Magdalene to hear Canon George Hall, rector of Sandringham, pray for the royal family, including the absent Princess of Wales.

The prince, who will undertake public engagements near by at King's Lynn today, spent the weekend with the Queen

and several close friends at Sandringham, the family's Norfolk estate. On Saturday they took part in a pheasant shoot and were joined by Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary. Buckingham Palace yesterday denied reports that Sir Robert, the Queen's most senior adviser, had offered to resign in the wake of recent disclosures.

Last year Sir Robert assured Lord McGregor of Durris, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, that the Prince of Wales had not co-operated with Andrew Morton, author of *Diana: Her True Story*, nor had she leaked stories of her crumbling marriage to newspapers. He was subsequently obliged to withdraw the assurance, made in good faith, and to apologise to Lord McGregor.

Andrew Knight, executive chairman of News International, publisher of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, yesterday denied suggestions in *The Sunday Telegraph* that he had doubted the wisdom of serialising Mr Morton's book in *The Sunday Times* last year.

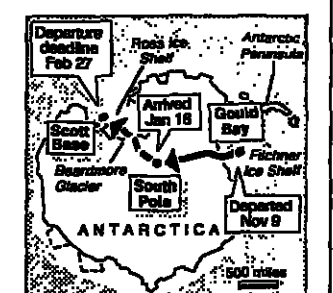
The Sunday Telegraph has put a spin and interpretation on what I said. I do not have any doubts, and have never had any doubt when my opinion was asked, that it was right to serialise the book," Mr Knight said. "Like everyone else, I was saddened by the collapse of the royal marriage, but disliking the news is never a reason not to publish it."



Pole position: Sir Ramulph Fienmes, left, and Dr Michael Stroud, who reached the South Pole on Saturday in their attempt to make the first crossing of the Antarctic on foot, without dogs or supply drops. Sir Ramulph and Dr Stroud, pictured at the start of their crossing, have covered more than 800 miles in 70 days, with about the same distance still to go (John Young writes). Yesterday was the eighty-first anniversary of Captain Robert Scott's arrival

at the Pole. Although slightly behind schedule, Sir Ramulph and Dr Stroud are on course to reach Scott Base by February 27, the last day on which the ship due to pick them up can stay before the ice closes in. They are hauling their supplies on two sledges, each weighing over 400lb. Dr Stroud, an army medical adviser who joined the British Antarctic Survey in 1989, is monitoring their reactions to physical and mental stress, extreme cold and a

limited and repetitive diet. Their food supplies are intended to provide a daily intake of 5,500 calories. David Harrison, a spokesman for the expedition, said that Sir Ramulph had so far lost three stone and Dr Stroud two. Blizzards and harsh terrain have hampered their progress, but they should be able to make up lost time with lighter loads, a following wind and the fact that most of the journey will be downhill.



MPs meet at mystery venue to question MI5 head

By Michael Dynes, Whitehall Correspondent

MEMBERS of the Commons all-party home affairs committee will be collected by car at 12.15pm sharp today for their first meeting with Stella Rimington, director-general of MI5.

In an operation more reminiscent of a John Le Carré spy novel than the workings of a modern democracy, the six MPs have not been told their destination. They will be taken to a mystery restaurant for the off-the-record talk about the state's security apparatus.

The MPs will almost certainly want to ask the director-general about allegations that the security service was involved in bugging and leaking private telephone conversations between the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles. It is almost equally certain that they will receive a frosty reply.

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, yesterday emphatically ruled out an investigation into the allegations. In a radio interview, he said claims that GCHQ or MI5 were involved were "wild" and "silly" and there was nothing to investigate. "The security services are strictly controlled in their telephone tapping and I know of absolutely no evidence whatever to support even the wildest allegation that they were involved," he said.

However, dissidents inside GCHQ, the government's electronic eavesdropping centre at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, which was de-united by Margaret Thatcher in 1984, yesterday insisted that a "cover-up oper-

ation" had been mounted following newspaper claims that the so-called Camillagate tape was recorded there.

The Labour party yesterday accused Mr Clarke of being too dismissive in his response to the claims. "He has to show that he is taking these allegations seriously otherwise he will be perceived as being unable to control an organisation for which he is responsible," it said.

Today's meeting comes after Mrs Rimington's refusal last month, on the advice of Mr Clarke, to give evidence to the home affairs committee. The committee, which is chaired by Sir Ivan Lawrence QC, last week published a report demanding parliamentary scrutiny of MI5's administration and spending policies, although avoiding operational activities.

John Greenway, a Conservative member of the committee, said the Camillagate affair "certainly strengthens the case

for a parliamentary committee to have responsibility to oversee or scrutinise the work of the security service". Anticipating the agenda for today's meeting, Mr Greenway said: "I suspect that colleagues will want to ask how true the allegations are, and I suspect that she will refuse to tell us." Sir Ivan said the meeting had been called to "help break the ice" by providing an opportunity for a general talk. "I do not know exactly what we will be discussing. I expect it will be the usual things. We will not be talking about the weather," he said.

He was sceptical about claims that MI5 was involved in tapping the royal family. With the amount of electronic eavesdropping technology that is publicly available "almost any Tom, Dick or Harry could have done it", he claimed.

John Major is understood to be considering the creation of a new panel to monitor MI5 policies, administration and spending, made up of privy councillors, the most senior MPs. The prime minister has already put MI5 on a statutory basis, and is committed to introducing a further bill to put MI6, the secret intelligence service, and GCHQ on a statutory basis as well.

Sir Ivan said the home affairs committee would be opposed to any proposals to make the panel accountable to the Cabinet Office rather than Parliament. "Anything that is the creature of government will be of little use as a watchdog," he said.



Clarke rejected "silly" allegations about MI5

Yard steps up enquiry into Falklands war killings

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

A TEAM of detectives is likely to visit the Falkland Islands to carry out further enquiries into allegations that British troops killed enemy prisoners in defiance of international conventions.

After completion of the early stages of the investigation into the claims that prisoners were shot by British servicemen during the 1982 campaign,

police believe there is sufficient evidence to warrant further enquiries in the islands, where Argentinian soldiers are buried. They have identified dozens of witnesses in what has developed into one of the most sensitive investigations undertaken by Scotland Yard in recent years.

Detectives from the Yard have carried out an intensive investigation among serving and former members of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute

Regiment. The enquiry to come arises from the allegations made public in a book written by a non-commissioned officer who served with the 3rd Battalion. The book, *Excursion to Hell*, by former Lance Corporal Vincent Bramley, alleged that prisoners of war were shot after the Battle for Mount Longdon, on the night of June 11-12, 1982. It alludes to two incidents in which prisoners were allegedly shot in defiance of the Geneva

Convention on the conduct of war. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, asked the Crown Prosecution Service five months ago to hold an official enquiry into the allegations and the CPS then called in Scotland Yard. The detectives have interviewed more than 100 serving and former members of the 3rd Battalion about the allegations. In one case outlined in the book, Lance Corporal Bram-

ley describes how two other Paras took three prisoners during a firefight. The three prisoners were allegedly taken over a ridge and shot. Mr Bramley wrote that one of the Paras told him that the orders to shoot the prisoners had come from above. The prisoners were suspected of being American mercenaries — a supposition that could have embarrassed President Reagan's strong pro-British line during the war.

Hopes for Bart's rise with visit

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Services Correspondent

HOPES that St Bartholomew's, Britain's oldest teaching hospital, could be saved from closure rose yesterday as it emerged that Dr Brian Mawhinney, the health minister, is to make a second visit to the hospital this week to discuss its rescue plan.

Dr Mawhinney, who has had a heavy schedule of visits since the Tomlinson report on London hospitals was published last October, is to make the return visit after careful study of the survival plan, which would involve preserving Bart's as a specialist centre for the treatment of heart conditions, cancer and AIDS. A health centre would replace the existing accident and emergency department to serve city commuters.

Whitcomb sources stressed yesterday that there were difficulties with certain aspects of the rescue plan and that no final decision had been taken.



MOUNT OLYMPUS Archaeological Discoveries in the Foothills of the Sacred Mountain

It was 3,500 years ago that the Greeks created the world of their gods, which they patterned on the social and political system of the Mycenaean period. Just as Agamemnon's palace stood on a mountain peak in the Peloponnese, so they envisaged the palace of Zeus, father of the gods, on the summit of Mount Olympus. Olympus, the loftiest mountain in Greece, towering over the Aegean Sea. The lower peaks and the ravines were allocated to the rest of the pantheon. The gods of Olympus lived on until the fourth century AD, when a dynamic and determined new religion, Christianity, ensured the closure of the pagan sanctuaries and the suppression of the ancient cult.

Olympian Zeus had sanctuaries in many Greek cities, the most famous being in the Peloponnese, where the Olympic games were held. It was at one of these, in the foothills of Mount Olympus, that Alexander the Great assembled his troops, held a splendid festival, made a sacrifice to the father of the gods, and set off for Asia, where he was to confront the Greeks' great adversary, the Persian Empire. Alexander made his sacrifice at Dion, which means 'holy place' (from the same root come the Latin *divus* and our own

word 'divine'); it was the sacred centre of the ancient Macedonians, the Greeks of the North. The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is conducting archaeological excavations on this site and uncovering temples, statues of the gods, and people's homes. The terrible earthquakes of the fifth and sixth centuries AD reduced the sacred city's buildings to heaps of rubble. The desperate inhabitants struggled to repair the ruined structures and bring the mutilated city back to life, but in vain. Nature in all its fury gradually reasserted itself: Dion disappeared beneath its own ruins, and a succession of floods submerged the splendid monuments under a thick layer of mud. The level of the sea subsequently rose and with it the water table at Dion, where many of Olympus' underground watercourses came to the surface and inundated the area with hundreds of springs. The archaeologists who have been digging there in the water and mud in recent years have been astonished to behold statues still upright on their bases after 2,000 years, heads of divine sculptures restored to the light after centuries of black oblivion, and hundreds of inscriptions engraved in beautiful Greek lettering on marble plaques.

telling of public affairs, Macedonian kings, and the private lives of ordinary people.

The oldest and greatest of Greek poets, Homer, sings of this slope. It was here that the gods ascended and descended their mountain. From here men went to Asia Minor to take part in the Trojan War. From Olympus' lofty peaks the sea and the Greek islands could be descied. Around 700 BC, Hesiod (fr. 7.2) wrote of two sons of Zeus, Magnes and Macedon, who ruled the region around Olympus. Magnes was the founder of the Magnesians of Central Greece, his brother the first ancestor of the Macedonians of Northern Greece. Archaeological finds from Homer and Hesiod's time in the foothills of Olympus reveal the close affinity between Northern and Southern Greece and prove that the ancient Greek myths were quite simply a rather special form of historiography. Even more sensational is the discovery of sculptures, inscriptions, coins, and the remains of animal sacrifices on one of the peaks of Olympus, Ayios Antonios. The inscriptions mention a sanctuary of Olympian Zeus at which, as ancient writers have already told us, a sacrifice was made by a sacred procession, which set off each year from Dion and climbed the mountain to the palace of the father of the gods. At this point myth and reality become one.

The archaeological finds at Dion shed abundant light on part of Greek history, the chapter concerning the genesis, the heyday, and the continuation of the kingdom of the Macedonians in its own sacred spot at the foot of Mount Olympus.

Dr Dimitrios Pandermalis
Professor of Archaeology
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Director of the Excavations at Dion



Redhead confirms his calling

By James Landale

BRIAN Redhead, the presenter of Radio 4's *Today* programme, is to retire at the end of this year and become a part-time priest for the Anglican Church.

Mr Redhead, 63, who has presented the morning news programme for 17 years, has said that in his final years he would enjoy the "calming and rewarding" work of becoming "an old cleric". In a recent interview, he said that he had already discussed the possibility with the church and that the response had been encouraging. "I won't do any subsidiary work just fill in for vicars when they are on holiday," he was quoted as saying.

Mr Redhead was confirmed into the Church of England shortly after his son William was killed in a road accident in 1982, aged 18.

BBC told that all-day bulletins are bad news for correspondents

By Peter Fiddick

ONE of the BBC's most respected broadcasters criticised the corporation on its own airwaves yesterday about its plan for a 24-hour news radio station. As senior executives, including director-general John Birt, sat listening to an audience of invited guests, Charles Wheeler warned that reporting standards were being threatened already by the pressure put on correspondents to produce work for more programme outlets.

Mr Wheeler, a foreign correspondent for several decades, was speaking on "Airing the Future", a two-hour debate at Queen Elizabeth II conference centre in London, broadcast live on Radio 4.

He said correspondents in the Washington bureau were so busy that they were forced to recycle news agency reports and official briefings. On the night that Iraq was bombed last week, Mr Wheeler said, the chief correspondent Gavin Essler contributed to

BBC1 news bulletins at 6pm and 9pm and to four World Service programmes.

The extra burden of a 24-hour news station was "the worst idea yet". "Is it going to do original reporting or just go on recycling?"

But the station won support from Sir Robin Day: "It's one of the few good ideas the BBC has had." The corporation should ignore public-opinion surveys on such matters and give people the opportunity to hear the programme. "There was no demand for news in the morning until the BBC gave it to them," he said, recalling the beginning of the second world war.

His dismissal of public opinion was described as an example of the BBC's arrogance by one of the "ordinary" viewers and listeners in the audience.

Charles Wheeler was not the only one to criticise from within. Giles Oakley, a producer, said morale had suf-

fered because of a feeling that the BBC had been too quiet, undervaluing its own achievements. Responding to them, John Birt said he wanted programme-makers to have maximum freedom.

The broadcaster Joan Bakewell argued for the licence fee to be set at £140, with concessions for needy groups. "I would like to see the setting of the licence fee given to some truly independent body, one that knows the price of bread and the cost of truth," she said.

Adam Singer, vice-president of one of America's biggest cable television corporations, concluded: "The BBC is a herbivore living in an increasingly carnivorous world. It should be a protected species. The question is what sort of a nature reserve?"

Fifty people telephoned the BBC to complain that "Airing the Future" had moved *Gardener's Question Time* from its Sunday afternoon slot.

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One in five arson cases fraudulent

Bogus claims cheat insurers of £400m

By NICHOLAS WATT

FRAUDULENT insurance claims are increasing as the recession deepens and people seek a quick way to recoup losses. Valuable vintage cars have suffered inexplicable crashes and mysterious night-time fires have destroyed businesses, say insurance companies.

The Association of British Insurers estimates that fraud accounted for at least £400 million of £14 billion paid in insurance claims in 1991. A fifth of arson claims, or £100 million, are fraudulent, they say.

Tony Baker, of the association, admits that insurers have been slow to catch on. Fraud in a recession cuts across all social barriers, from fallen suppliers to holiday-makers on modest incomes. "When you have cash-flow problems, claiming for a fire seems such an easy solution," Mr Baker said. "Some fashion companies burn a range of clothes when they no longer sell."

But would-be cheats face sophisticated computer programmes. Motor theft is one of the largest areas and Mr Baker said companies had computers with details of MOT tests, past claims and credit ratings. "For example, we can look to see if there is a pattern of claiming for burnt-out cars just after failing MOT tests," he said.

One case involved a former insurance broker who had no idea of the new system. "He bought a scrap car, insured it with 11 companies, reported a crash and claimed all at once. We soon spotted that one."

Bob Scott, British head of General Accident Insurance Group, trains his staff to detect classic signs of bogus or exaggerated insurance claims. "If someone reports a fire, we check their accounts to see if the business is under strain," he said. "We also notice people who are in a tremendous hurry to be paid."

Insurance companies complain that their efforts to tackle

fraud are hampered by the courts. Robert Wilson, who heads Norwich Union's claims investigation unit, said: "Courts often impose such lenient sentences that they almost reinforce the view that the fraud is socially acceptable." Norwich Union has a special classic-car insurance policy that will cover cars at a mutually agreed price. When the price of vintage cars collapsed two years ago, owners realised they would make far more if their car was suddenly "stolen".

Mr Wilson said that in one case the owner of a 1958 Jaguar XK150 filed a claim for £48,000 after his car was supposedly stolen in London. He shipped the car to France where the owner sold it to a dealer. He was arrested after a tip-off to police. "All he got for that was a slap round the wrist from the court. He was given 80 hours community service—80 hours mowing an old lady's lawn for that kind of fraud," he said.



On the mend: one of the seals being treated at Hillswick wildlife centre

Shetlanders voice concern for seals

By RAY CLANCY

SEALS trapped in the Shetlands oil spill are responding well to treatment, although opinions continue to vary about the long-term effects on wildlife.

At the weekend, Shetlanders put aside their own problems and held a fund-raising singing evening for the seals at the island's oldest pub, the Booth in Hillswick. The owner, Jan Morgan, said: "The place was mobbed."

At Hillswick wildlife centre yesterday eight seals and an otter were being treated. "Two seals arrived in a critical condition. They are just hanging on. Others are responding well to treatment," a spokeswoman said.

The latest seal to arrive was found on Barra, a few miles north of the tanker wreck. "She is a massive adult female and her coat is absolutely thick with oil," Ms Morgan said. "She looks just like a big brown bear. We don't know what her chances are of surviving."

Bad weather continued to hamper the animal rescue operation yesterday. Andy Innes of the Scottish Society for

the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said: "We cannot risk losing anyone. The wind is so bad it feels as if the rescue centre is about to take off."

Workers have been able to undertake three surveys on the islands of Lady's Holm and Little Holm, in the mouth of Quendale Bay, where hundreds of seals have been gathering. "The general opinion is that there are a few seals affected by oil to some extent but they are not catchable at all. Trying to rescue them would cause more problems for the others," Mr Innes said.

Post-mortem examinations are being carried out on dead seals by vets from the Scottish Agricultural College.

Marine biologists are concerned about the effect on breeding of benzene, a constituent of crude oil and a carcinogen. "Seals that have ingested large amounts of oil die, but it is those who survive who could suffer severe problems. Their resistance is low and reproductive organs could be affected," Sian Pullen, of the World Wide Fund For Nature, said.

Carey calls for reform of WCC

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION
CORRESPONDENT

ACCUSATIONS that the World Council of Churches has been infiltrated by pagan, political and revolutionary forces have led the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, to call for its reform.

In response to an article in the February issue of *Reader's Digest* which says that the council has "flirted with the Devil of paganism and danced with the Salome of communist ideology", Dr Carey said: "The WCC's heart is in the right place, but it needs to be reformed, fast."

The magazine says the council, which includes 322 churches from more than 100 countries, has drifted from its original goal of Christian unity into the "choppy waters of secular ecumenism" to accommodate radical anti-Western and Third World pressure groups.

The *Digest* maintains that, for decades, the vast organisation, has been manipulated by unchristian forces urging political action in place of Christian mission, radical liberation, urban theology and influence by feminist and ecological groups.

The council is widely criticised by the Church of England. The Ven George Austin, Archbishop of York, said: "To me, the WCC seems sick at heart."

Nursery schools squeezed

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

NURSERY schools are facing a double squeeze from central and local government, which educationalists fear may wipe out pre-school provision in some parts of the country and reduce the training of staff where the system survives.

Several education authorities are considering shutting nursery schools as they try to balance tighter budgets for 1993-4. As non-statutory services, the schools are particularly vulnerable in authorities where spending is likely to be capped.

Haringey, in north London, is the latest authority to include closing nursery schools in cuts to be debated this month. Only nursery classes attached to primary schools would be funded if the proposals are accepted. Other authorities considering nursery closures are Manchester and Harrow, in north London. In Bury, Lancashire, the threat of closures prompted a group of parents and officials to lobby Michael Howard, the environment secretary, last week. Bury, seeking £8.6 million savings, may have to reduce admissions of "rising fives" to school, close nurseries and stop funding school libraries and music teaching.

Nursery teachers' representatives are already concerned at the loss of government grants to train staff. Two years of extra funding for in-service training come to an end in April and will prevent some teachers from taking courses.

Leading article, page 15

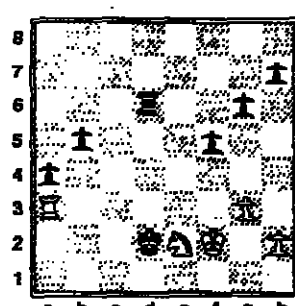
Short misses chance to extend chess lead

FROM RAYMOND KEENE IN SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL

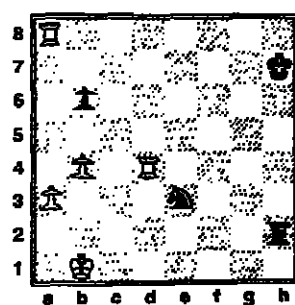
NIGEL Short, Britain's world chess champion, missed an opportunity to extend his lead on Saturday in his final eliminator against the Dutchman Jan Timman.

Short, playing black, entered an endgame where he had three dangerous pawns against Timman's knight, but he failed to press home his advantage. A draw was agreed on Short's proposal at move 46.

Short leads by two wins to



Game 5: final position



Game 4: final position

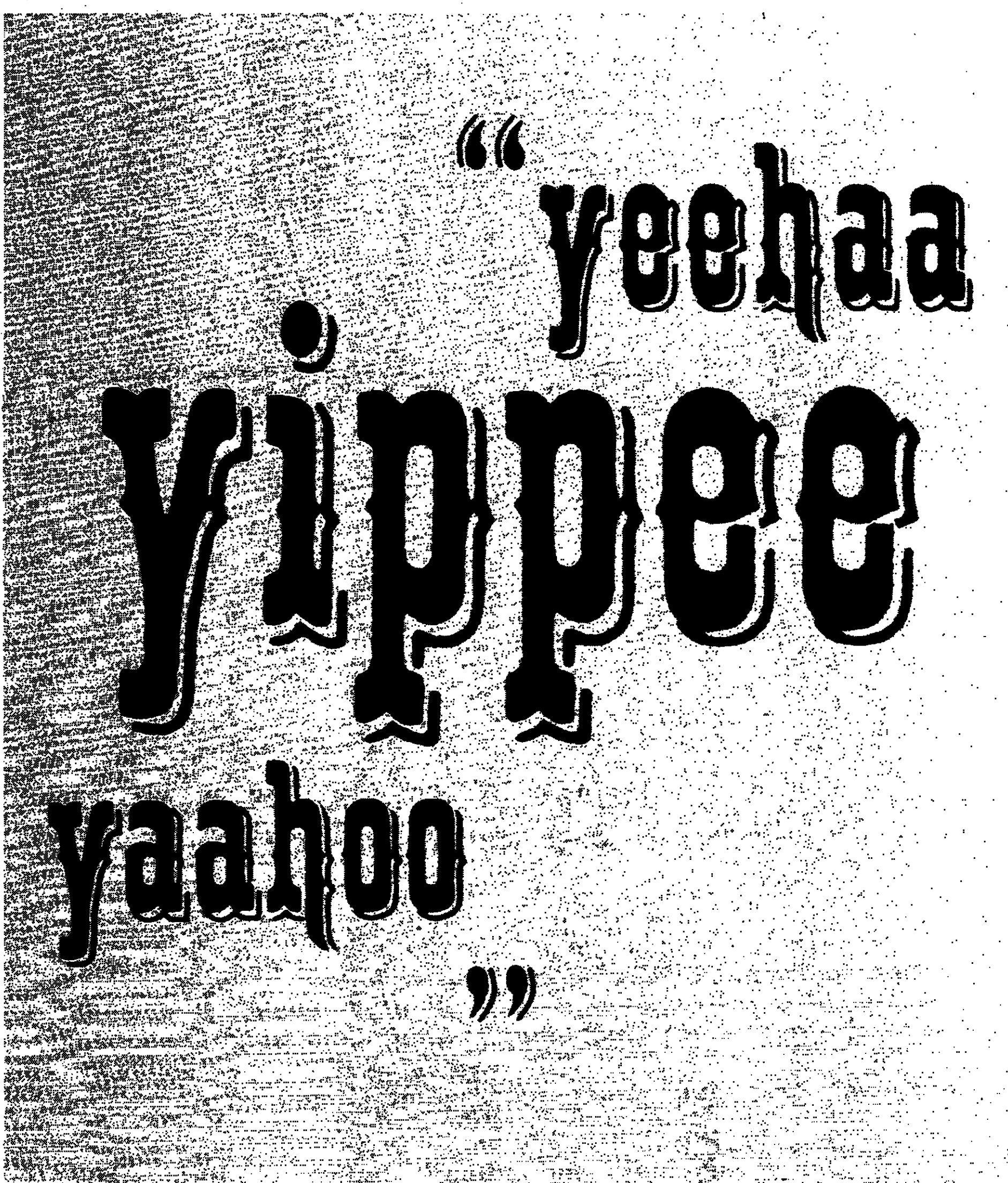
one, having won Game 4 on Friday night. Two games have been drawn.

Game 5			
White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	d5	22 e3	d6
2 d4	c5	23 f3	Kd6
3 Nc3	Nf6	24 Nc1	a5
4 e5	c4	25 Nc3	Rd6
5 Nf3	c3	26 Rf3	Rd6
6 e4	Nf6	27 Nc1	Rd1
7 Qc3	Rg6	28 Nc3	Rd1
8 Rf3	Rg6	29 Nc3	Rd1
9 Qd3	Rg6	30 Nc3	Rd1
10 Rf1	Rd7	31 Nc3	Rd1
11 Rf2	Rd7	32 Nc3	Rd1
12 Rf2	Rd7	33 Nc3	Rd1
13 Rf2	Rd7	34 Nc3	Rd1
14 Rf2	Rd7	35 Nc3	Rd1
15 Rf2	Rd7	36 Nc3	Rd1
16 Rf2	Rd7	37 Nc3	Rd1
17 Rf2	Rd7	38 Nc3	Rd1
18 Rf2	Rd7	39 Nc3	Rd1
19 Rf2	Rd7	40 Nc3	Rd1
20 Rf2	Rd7	41 Nc3	Rd1
21 Rf2	Rd7	42 Nc3	Rd1
22 Rf2	Rd7	43 Nc3	Rd1
23 Rf2	Rd7	44 Nc3	Rd1
24 Rf2	Rd7	45 Nc3	Rd1

Draw agreed

Game 4			
White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	c5	31 e2	Nc5
2 Nf3	c4	32 Rf1	Nc7
3 d4	c3	33 Nc3	Nc5
4 Rf3	c2	34 Nc3	Nc5
5 Nc3	Nc5	35 Nc3	Nc5
6 Rf3	Nc5	36 Nc3	Nc5
7 Qc3	Rg6	37 Nc3	Nc5
8 Rf3	Rg6	38 Nc3	Nc5
9 Qd3	Rg6	39 Nc3	Nc5
10 Rf1	Rd7	40 Nc3	Nc5
11 Rf2	Rd7	41 Nc3	Nc5
12 Rf2	Rd7	42 Nc3	Nc5
13 Rf2	Rd7	43 Nc3	Nc5
14 Rf2	Rd7	44 Nc3	Nc5
15 Rf2	Rd7	45 Nc3	Nc5
16 Rf2	Rd7	46 Nc3	Nc5
17 Rf2	Rd7	47 Nc3	Nc5
18 Rf2	Rd7	48 Nc3	Nc5
19 Rf2	Rd7	49 Nc3	Nc5
20 Rf2	Rd7	50 Nc3	Nc5
21 Rf2	Rd7	51 Nc3	Nc5
22 Rf2	Rd7	52 Nc3	Nc5
23 Rf2	Rd7	53 Nc3	Nc5
24 Rf2	Rd7	54 Nc3	Nc5
25 Rf2	Rd7	55 Nc3	Nc5
26 Rf2	Rd7	56 Nc3	Nc5
27 Rf2	Rd7	57 Nc3	Nc5
28 Rf2	Rd7	58 Nc3	Nc5
29 Rf2	Rd7	59 Nc3	Nc5
30 Rf2	Rd7	60 Nc3	Nc5

Black resigns



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Repossessions fall as house owners go deeper in debt

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

THE Leeds Permanent Building Society was the only leading lender to repossess more homes in 1992 than it did in 1991, in a survey conducted by *The Times*. Nearly all other big lenders reduced the number of new repossession cases, with Halifax Building Society halving its number to register the biggest percentage fall.

Analysts and housing charities gave a warning that other lenders could soon follow the Leeds' example, as they have avoided increasing their repossessions only by allowing borrowers to build up long-term arrears. Many such cases could end in repossession, especially if unemployment continues to rise.

Alliance & Leicester was the only other building society in the top ten that failed to reduce its repossession rate: there was no change compared with 1991.

The *Times* survey of the top ten building societies and Abbey National analysed trends in short-term and long-term arrears and repossessions in 1992 compared with 1991. No lender gave precise figures and some, such as the Nationwide, refused to indicate trends. It would say only that its repossessions were down.

The picture of lenders holding back on repossessions, with a corresponding increase in long-term arrears, is expected to be reinforced at the end of the month when the Council of Mortgage Lenders announces repossession and arrears totals for 1992. The council estimates that repossessions are likely to total 70,000, compared with a record 75,540 in 1991.

The number is still at historically high levels, but analysts say it could have been double if lenders had not

taken steps such as debt-counselling, debt-rescheduling and mortgage rescue schemes.

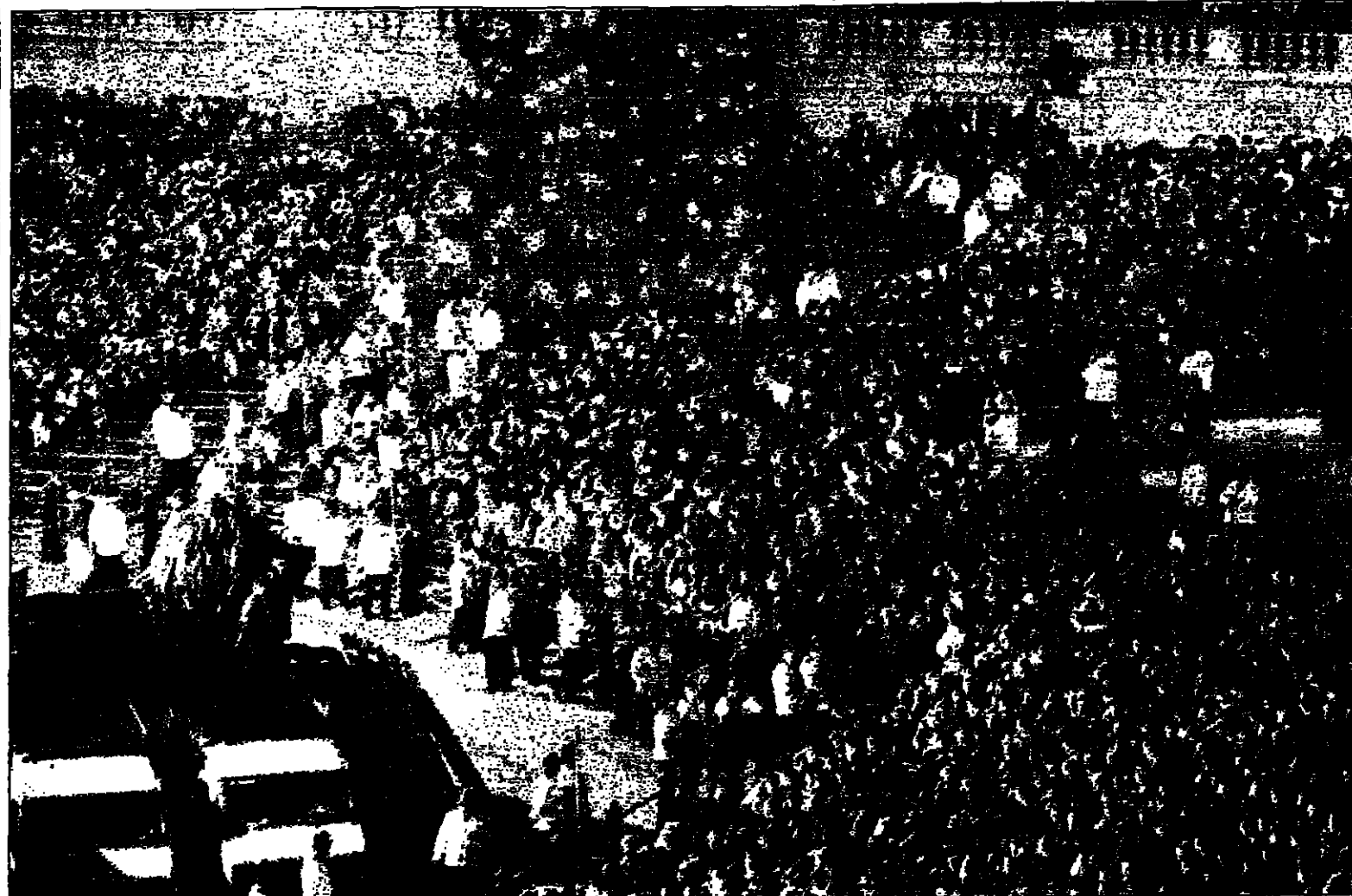
The Leeds blamed its merger with the Southdown building society and a policy of chasing arrears at the beginning of last year for the increase in its repossession rate. A spokesman said many of the cases were abandoned properties. The Leeds said short-term arrears and longer term arrears figures were both down, by 27 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.

At Cheltenham & Gloucester, where repossessions fell 9.5 per cent, short-term arrears were down 12.7 per cent while long-term arrears were up 6 per cent. The Leeds forecasts that repossessions in 1993 will be lower than those for 1992 or 1991.

John Wrigglesworth, housing analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "There are exceptions with legitimate excuses, but what we see is the building societies bending over backwards to prevent repossessions in 1992. What I fear is that quite a lot of the reduced repossessions in 1992 will be delayed repossessions."

The most recent figures for the first six months of the year show that some 300,000 mortgages are six months or more in arrears and that some 35,000 homeowners have had their properties repossessed.

Dr Wrigglesworth said that while there would be fewer repossessions in 1993 than in 1992, new repossessions would stay high until 1994 or 1995. "It's not the fault of the building societies so much as the recession," he said. "If lenders had not changed their policy, 150,000 homeowners would have been repossessed last year, Dr Wrigglesworth said."



A good time for the revellers but a fearful place to be for a police officer: Trafalgar Square during the latest New Year celebrations

120,000 throng Square and police cross fingers

■ Drink and the IRA brought the New Year's eve revellers in central London this year to the brink of tragedy

By Angela Mackay and Christopher Elliott

PLANNING for the huge crowds that come to Trafalgar Square for New Year's Eve begins in September. Even so, the scale and unpredictability of the risk — coupled with this year's IRA hoax bomb calls — leaves senior police officers deeply concerned.

Chief Supt Robert Currie, of Marylebone division, said last week: "I do not like policing with my fingers crossed." It was his first New Year's Eve duty in the square and he was in charge of around 200 officers whose job was to patrol the 23,000 inside it.

"I didn't expect to feel so much unease from the experience. I knew we were going to have about 80,000 to 100,000 people in a huge group who had been drinking, but they are supposed to be there to have a good time. It was real cliff-hanging stuff." The final figure was put at 120,000.

The police begin to deploy steadily from about 8.30pm, forming filter cordons across the main streets leading to the square to monitor the numbers moving in and ensure they are not carrying bottles of drink or weapons. The crucial period is from 10.30pm.

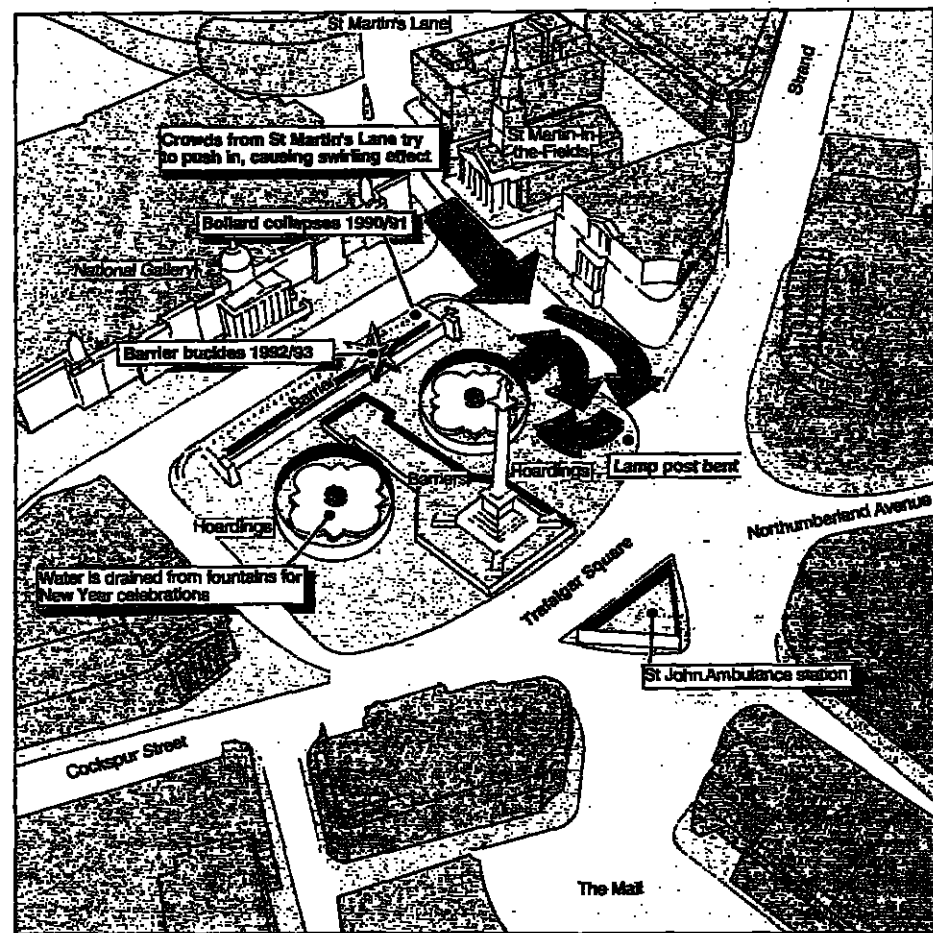
Mr Currie said: "What I was really concerned about was that people could be dying just six feet away from me on the other side of a barrier and I wouldn't be able to see it." He said there were several instances between 11.30pm and 12.15am when he thought matters were getting out of control. He could see

people throwing themselves from lampposts on top of other people. Rockets and thunderflashes were let off and "steamers" — running gangs of thieves — were pushing people off balance and stealing their bags.

"There were also about nine points at which groups of people were swaying and jumping up and down, in a good-natured way but which also destabilises the crowd. There was no way I could do much about it. The age profile of the crowd is largely between 14 and 30 but there are still a lot of older people and there were several families there early before they were warned to take their children away."

"I thought I was within just a minute or two of a lot of people going under. It's a very fine balance between exuberance and disaster. When the crowds finally clear and you look through the debris you thank God there are no bodies lying there. We were convinced that we would find at least one person, who fell out of a tree and we weren't able to reach, but they had disappeared. The issue is not the need for more police or barriers. We need to dissuade people from going altogether."

According to Mr Currie and Chief Supt Malcolm Eldmans, of Charing Cross division, who was responsible for the streets around the square, there were "really white faces" among the police on duty. Mr Eldmans was in charge of



operations inside Trafalgar Square for five years until the arrival of Mr Currie. "I prayed for rain every year to keep numbers down and still do," he said. "It is a fearful place to be on New Year's Eve — a wing and a prayer job."

His successor felt that fear three weeks ago. Five minutes before midnight Mr Currie looked across the packed square. "I looked out towards St Martin's Lane and saw a sea of heads coming down it. I looked up the Strand and saw

the same. I thought, 'My God, where are they going to go when they get here? Every year we are drawn into policing an event that the public thinks is safe but is not. We do not have control of that crowd. Having done it once does not make me feel more secure about next year. I know I'll be even more anxious.'"

ENDS Tony Speed, a deputy assistant commissioner, who was in the police control room watching the monitors, said the similarities with the cele-

brations in Hong Kong, in which 20 people died and 71 were injured just a few minutes after midnight, were frightening.

Witnesses in the colony said the high volume of noise made it difficult to distinguish between cheers and screams. Mr Speed said that all the conditions leading to the tragedy in Hong Kong were present every year in Trafalgar Square.

Near disaster, page 1

Passion thriving on the line

By Joe Joseph

IN A coincidence that suddenly makes startling news out of dull statistics, BT has just polled Britons on how many of us conduct romantic affairs and whisper sweet nothings by telephone.

Few might have believed the findings until the transcripts of the alleged royal phone-call appeared in two Sunday newspapers yesterday. The researchers found that 67 per cent of callers believe it is easy to say "I love you" on the phone and most of those who have had long-distance relationships readily admitted making and receiving romantic and intimate calls.

But Britons apparently feel that their passions and their romantic imaginations are too big to be bounded by Britain's shores. One in 20 has conducted a long-distance phone relationship with someone in Europe. Half are with expatriate Britons, but Spaniards head the list of amours, followed by French and Germans. Given a free choice of partner, Britons would choose someone French for their foreign affair.

Redundant servicemen find jobs

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A MARKETING campaign to boost civilian job prospects for thousands of redundant servicemen is beginning to pay off, according to the Ministry of Defence.

A survey shows that about two-thirds of soldiers, sailors and airmen already made redundant have found jobs within three months, in spite of the recession. Brigadier Gage Williams, director of the redundancy programme, said it indicated that the private sector was keen to take on ex-servicemen.

To help promote ex-servicemen's management skills, the defence ministry has contracted a marketing company, Marshall Tanous. It has also sought the advice of the Americans, who are engaged in a much larger troop reduction programme.

In Britain, about 110,000 servicemen will leave over the next three years, although only 19,000 will be part of the redundancy programme.

Brig Williams said a study showed that warrant officers and staff sergeants were within a year of achieving the equivalent of a BSc in systems engineering. Some warrant officers also had the experience to become directors of a small company.

Release of SOE files leaves questions unanswered

By Andrew Lycett

SOME of the most controversial covert operations of the second world war may have new light shed on them this year when the government begins to release files of the Special Operations Executive.

Historians hope for new details of such incidents as the failure of Allied resistance in The Netherlands in 1941-2 and SOE's armed support for Tito in Yugoslavia from 1943.

Formed as a secret service in July 1940, the SOE was told by Churchill to "set Europe ablaze". At its height in 1944, 10,000 men and 3,200 women worked for it, running agents and sparking resistance behind enemy lines. Its reputation has, however, been tarnished by allegations of treachery and inefficiency.

Myths have developed, such as that SOE and the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS or M16) often worked against each other. One is that an SOE agent, Henri Derocourt, compromised resistance networks in France because he was being run by SIS in an effort to penetrate German intelligence. Historians await the release of the SOE archive with realistic scepticism. Only 13 per cent of original files survive after the ravages of war and, more particularly, a mysterious fire in SOE's Baker Street headquarters in 1945.

The archive, housed by SIS, consists of 15,248 files. About half are personal files, and cannot be released because they include details of vetting

by the Security Service (M15). Since the history of the intelligence services remains off-limits, few records of the working relationship between SOE and SIS are likely to be released. The original internal history of SOE, written between 1946 and 1948, will remain under wraps. Furthermore, although the government has promised the release of the first SOE files by the end



Allason: sceptical about "official" histories

of the year, there is no timetable for the rest. Indeed, there is suspicion that access to SOE files has been conceded by SIS to hold back any demand to publish its own documents.

Gervase Cowell, who as SOE adviser is responsible for the archive, says that his weedeaters are working to extract "accounts of operational life" from personal files. He argues that restrictions on details of SIS involvement are not im-

portant in theatres of war in which the SOE fell under military command.

Mr Cowell does not expect SOE glasnost to change the historical record much. Of the myths, he says that there is nothing in his files to support the theory that, to deceive the Germans, Churchill sent the SOE agent Francis Suttill to France to spread false information about the date of D-Day among resistance agents.

Similarly, although details of SOE's suspicions about Derocourt will now be available, Mr Cowell says that there is "no evidence that SIS was acting malevolently".

To clear up "conspiracy theories", the government commissioned official histories of SOE. The first, by M.R.D. Foot on SOE in France, came out in 1966.

Since 1958, historians have been able to ask the SOE adviser to confirm details of fact from his archive. From the end of the year, they will be able to see actual, if sanitised, documents. M.R.D. Foot expects that SOE in Norway will gain greater credit for halting Germany's atomic bomb.

The Tory MP Rupert Allason, the author, as Nigel West, of *Secret War*, a controversial book on SOE, is sceptical about "official" histories. He looks forward to seeing material on SOE's traitors and its disaster-prone Dutch section. "As long as files are not available, conspiracy theories will remain," he says.

Barristers will offer court 'block bookings'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

BARRISTERS are to band together to bid for block contracts of work from solicitors, a fundamental change in practice forced on them by increasing competition for criminal legal aid work.

Instead of barristers operating as sole practitioners, chambers will make bids to solicitors' firms singly or in a group to undertake a whole morning or afternoon's work in magistrates' courts for a fixed fee.

The scheme, which is still being prepared, was suggested by John Rowe QC, Bar chairman, as one way to make the Bar more competitive. Barristers already face competition from solicitors in the magistrates' courts and by next year, when solicitors get wider advocacy rights, they will face similar competition in the crown courts.

Mr Rowe said: "Sets of chambers in a particular regional area or on a circuit might get together and agree to do a particular session or sessions of crown court or magistrates' court work."

The scheme could work on a rota basis, he said. One set of chambers could agree to cover one court complex for a week and then hand over to another set.

Firms of solicitors that operated as agents for other firms outside the region or which were unable to get to a court worked in the same way, he said. "Solicitors are often at the end of a mobile

phone going from one court to another, operating like barristers," he added.

Such a scheme would not diminish the client's right to choose counsel, he said. "At present clients do not usually specify a lawyer in cases taken by solicitor-agents. The client is content to accept the agent who comes along."

Although the idea of networks of chambers was new, he said that there were informal links between chambers. "Of course, a clerk will try to keep the work within chambers, but quite often there is a network of co-operation within a particular area and a clerk will pass work to another set if he has no one available."

Anthony Edwards, secretary of the London Criminal Solicitors' Courts' Association, said: "I doubt if, in a competitive market, the Bar will be able to offer a deal that is competitive with solicitor-agents."

Firms such as his, T.V. Edwards & Co in east London, which already undertakes solicitor-agent work, are drawing up similar proposals to bid for block work from other solicitors' firms, and will be in direct competition with sets of chambers.

"We have a solicitor every day in each of four main court centres and we will offer to handle a solicitor's work at a fixed price per case, so the solicitor will know what profit remains however many hearings that case involves," he said.

Man held after car death case

A man aged 41 was arrested yesterday after the death of a woman found beneath a car embedded in the front of her home.

Janet Maloney, 41, of Hillfoot near Newbury, Berkshire, had last been seen alive at a nearby pub on Friday night. She left after an argument. Police discovered her body under a Daimler that had crashed into her cottage.

It is thought that Mrs Maloney may have been injured before being run over. "We are treating this as a suspicious death," a police spokesman said.

Teenager raped in bushes

Police in Hastings, East Sussex, are trying to trace a taxi driver for clues to the rape of a young woman on scrubland between two council estates on Saturday night.

The victim, 17, was dragged into bramble bushes as she walked home. A taxi driver is believed to have dropped a customer near the spot where she emerged after the attack.

Station raided

Three masked men escaped with £5,000 from the booking office at Birmingham New Street railway station after holding up staff at gunpoint. Two clerks were tied up but managed to free themselves and raise the alarm.

Hospital ride

Two hospitals in Wolverhampton have introduced battery-powered buggies for children to drive themselves to the operating theatre. Staff believe that they will find the experience less intimidating than being taken on trolleys.

Mouse hold-up

An American Airlines flight from Manchester to Chicago was grounded after a security team reported seeing a mouse in the business class section. Most of the 111 passengers had to wait 24 hours for the next flight.

Brother held

Michael John Young, 27, will appear in court today charged with murdering his brother Steven, 29, at Hawkeville, Essex, on Saturday. The victim had been stabbed with a kitchen knife.

Cinema cave-in

Dozens of filmgoers escaped when part of a ceiling collapsed at Monica Cinema, Cardiff. One woman was treated in hospital for head injuries and shock.

Baby charge

A man aged 24 is due to appear before Scunthorpe magistrates, Humberside, today charged with the murder of Jamie Leigh Allen, aged two months.

Canal haul

Workers dredging a canal in Coventry have recovered a Ford Escort, a motorcycle, a sofa and two armchairs, two shotguns, a video recorder and dozens of shopping trolleys.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bond prize draw are: £100,000, bond number 30SF 075420, from Rochdale, value of holding £1,672, £50,000, 30WZ 849089, Barnsley (E9.993); £25,000, 27PB 079501, Canterbury (£1,224).

The way it isn't

FRANCIS BROWN



The Rt Hon Peter Brooke favours the neater look. He eschews the purple polo neck, the 26in flare and the platform boot. For sensible shoes and a pin-striped suit.

Dr Anthony Clare sits in the Psychiatrist's Chair. Or is that where his guests go? I don't suppose we'll ever know.

Frida Kahlo never visited Harlow. Her idea of heaven lay in avoiding the M11.

Bill Clinton is always hinting. It's only elections that make him swear. His faith in the electric chair.

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Sicily celebrates don's arrest as start of Mafia collapse

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN PALERMO

SICILIANS rejoiced yesterday over the capture of Salvatore "Toto" Riina, the Mafia boss, in Palermo on Friday. The "boss of bosses" was apparently betrayed by his former driver, who gave police a long list of those who had enabled him to evade the law for 22 years.

Police are also examining video recordings of up to 200 people who visited Riina, 62, head of the dominant Corleone clan of Cosa Nostra, before he was captured. Among his visitors were many people considered above suspicion and at least one well-known national politician.

Riina's arrest, some experts have suggested, could mark the beginning of the elimination of the Sicilian Mafia. "For the first time in centuries, people in Sicily begin to feel that the state is present," said Tommaso Buscetta, a Mafia soldier turned supergrass. He told *Panorama* magazine that there would in future be no more Mafia boss "because nobody will believe in them any more".

The authorities are more cautious about the significance of Riina's capture. "The arrest of 'Toto' does not at all mean the death of Cosa Nostra," said Giancarlo Caselli, the chief prosecutor of Palermo. "There is still too much work to do."

Islanders hope the decline of organised crime under way. The Italian authorities holding "Toto" Riina are less optimistic



he was driven down a Palermo street are determined to build on their success. Before the trap was sprung, plainclothes officers followed their prey for three months filming his contacts. Plans to round up these contacts are now under way. "Riina met someone who you could not even imagine," a carabinieri colonel said. "When everything is known there will be people who are ashamed, who will have to leave Palermo."

Students and young people active in the anti-Mafia Rete (Network) party organised celebrations in Palermo's palm-lined piazzas at the weekend. Outside a barracks, two young men held a banner saying simply "Thank you, carabinieri."

The extent of the blow to organised crime was evident yesterday in the row of empty tables at the normally bustling N'Grasciata restaurant in Palermo. It was the traditionally favoured haunt for Cosa Nostra members. "I am surprised business is not worse given what has happened," a waiter said.

Antionietta Bagarella, Riina's wife, emerged from her 20 years in hiding with her husband at the weekend and went to live with his two sisters in Corleone, 40 miles from here. "My husband is not the monster you think he is," she told, the carabinieri.



Sicilian defence: Salvatore Riina, the "boss of bosses" arrested in Palermo last week, has denied ordering the killing in a car bomb attack of Giovanni Falcone, above, one of Italy's top anti-Mafia judges



teenage sons and daughters spoke Italian without a Sicilian accent, indicating that they had not been brought up on the island.

Judicial sources said that a mafioso who had worked as a chauffeur for Riina played a crucial role in his arrest. Baldassare Di Maggio, 39, gave himself up to police in northern Italy after he had fallen out with the ruling boss in his home town of San Giuseppe Jato. He provided authorities with addresses of safe houses used by the Mafia and identified Riina when he was filmed by carabinieri undercover agents before his arrest.

Riina's last home was apparently a fortified villa in the Via Tranchina in the San Lorenzo district of Palermo. The house was owned by Salvatore Biondino, 39, an unemployed forest guard arrested with Riina while driving the Mafia boss's Citroën saloon.

Riina was quoted yesterday as denying that he had ordered the murder last summer of Italy's two top anti-Mafia judges, Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino.

Leading article, page 15

Bonn left agrees to asylum change

FROM MICHAEL BINYON
IN BONN

AS THOUSANDS of people again took to the streets of Germany over the weekend to demonstrate against racial hatred, the Bonn government was preparing for the swift introduction this week of a bill to change the constitution and to tighten the laws on asylum.

After months of parliamentary bickering, the government won an unexpected victory at the weekend when the Social Democratic opposition accepted revised coalition proposals that would bring Germany's asylum laws into line with the stricter criteria of its European Community partners. Bonn hopes this will reduce the flow of asylum-seekers, many looking for economic rather than political security.

Another firebomb was hurled at a hotel for foreigners in Garben near Hanover on Saturday, but police say such attacks, which took place almost nightly in the autumn, have abated as the authorities have cracked down on right-wing extremists. In Nuremberg, a homemade bomb exploded outside a building housing foreigners and Germans.

Thousands of people again marched in candle-lit processions during the weekend calling for tolerance for foreigners and an end to racism. In Magdeburg, in former East Germany, the gathering took place on the 48th anniversary of the allied raid in 1945, which destroyed 80 per cent of all the buildings. □ Frankfurt Dr Hans Sewering, 76, German president-elect of the World Medical Association, admitted at the weekend that he belonged to the Nazi SS before the second world war. Doctors in Germany and the American Medical Association are putting pressure on him to stand down. (AP)

Britons are seized in Cambodia

Phnom Penh: At least four British peacekeepers have been taken hostage by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in northwest Kompong Chhnang province, United Nations sources said.

The men, part of a UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Unac) naval observer team, were abducted while on routine reconnaissance along the Sen river. Under a peace agreement signed in 1991, the Unac force is supervising the running of the country until elections are held.

Over the past two months, the Khmer Rouge have taken scores of Unac people hostage. In one incident last month they threatened to execute prisoners. (Reuters)

Farmer charged

Florence: Italian police have charged a farmer, Pietro Pacciani, 68, with the murders of 14 young lovers killed over the past 20 years. The courting couples were murdered as they cuddled in cars in country lanes. (Reuters)

Nuns held

Manila: Two Spanish nuns were kidnapped by gunmen from a beach in the predominantly Muslim island of Jolo in the Philippines. They had been working at a special centre and clinic for lepers. (Reuters)

Royal martyr

Paris: Hundreds of French royalists thronged a chapel containing the remains of Louis XVI to mark the 200th anniversary of his execution. The congregation hailed him as a martyr. (Reuters)

Crime pays

Nice: Jacky Lopinot, a French forger who perfected his skills in jail, has been arrested for printing American banknotes worth more than £392,000, police said. (Reuters)

Danish polls rebuff opposition leader

FROM REUTERS IN COPENHAGEN

POUL Nyrup Rasmussen, the Danish opposition leader, yesterday got a jolt from opinion polls showing Danes were unenthusiastic about his Social Democrats taking power after the resignation of Poul Schluter as prime minister.

Despite the polls, Mr Rasmussen, 49, is the favourite to form a new government which he says will emphasise economic stability at a crucial time in Denmark's ties with the European Community. Mr Rasmussen, a former trade union economist, was outlining his policies before resuming talks with other party leaders today. The tasks of the new prime minister will include running the EC presidency.

Polls in two leading dailies yesterday reflected deep uncertainty on how to resolve the issue, but showed few Danes wanted the Social Democratic party, the biggest in parliament, to return to power. Mr Schluter, a Conservative who had been prime minister since 1982, resigned when a legal

enquiry said he misled parliament in a long-running scandal over Denmark's treatment of Tamil refugees. Parties chose Mr Rasmussen to try to form a government.

"Most people want a general election," the Conservative daily *Bertingske Tidende* said after its opinion poll. The survey showed 44 per cent of those questioned wanted an election, 36 per cent wanted the centre-right government to continue with a new prime minister, while 15 per cent favoured a Social Democrat government.

A separate Sonar poll for the *Jyllands-Posten* found that 37 per cent wanted a centre-right government, 29 per cent a government led by Social Democrats and just 25 per cent a new election.

Thirty-five per cent of those questioned wanted Mr Rasmussen as prime minister, 23 per cent supported Henning Dyremose, the Conservative finance minister, and 7 per cent wanted Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the foreign minister.

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Karadzic warns West that no-fly vote would prolong war

By Eve-Anne Prentice and Philip Webster

THE West's peace plan for Bosnia could be wrecked if the UN Security Council endorses the enforcement of a no-fly zone over the former Yugoslav republic, Radovan Karadzic, leader of Bosnia's Serbs, told *The Times* yesterday.

His warning came as Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, responded to Conservative party alarm over British involvement in the conflict in former Yugoslavia by ruling out a combat role for British forces. He said Britain's troops were engaged in humanitarian duties and would be pulled out if the level of risk became unacceptable.

Dr Karadzic, speaking from Pale, near Sarajevo, where the self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament is to meet tomorrow to debate the Geneva peace plan, said: "Everything can change if the no-fly zone resolution is passed. That would be a vote for war. It is as if someone in the international community is in favour of war. To talk about a no-fly zone is an insult to the Serbian people: everyone knows there have been no Serbian military flights over Bosnia."

The Bosnian Serb debate on the Geneva plan, which would divide Bosnia into ten autonomous provinces, will be on the final day before a European Community-imposed deadline. The proposals, drawn up by Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, were hailed as a breakthrough when they were accepted last week by Dr Karadzic and Slobodan Milosevic, the president of Serbia. Dr Karadzic said: "I have hopes that the Geneva plan will be accepted: this is a matter of life and death and we should do everything we can." But his warning on the no-fly zone indicated that the plan could be in tatters within hours of agreement.

■ Alarm about the fate of British troops is likely to grow in the face of the threat to the latest UN move to restore peace in Bosnia

The security council is expected tomorrow or on Wednesday to discuss a draft resolution allowing military action to enforce the air-exclusion zone. The text was agreed by Britain, America, France and Spain on Friday. But an increasing number of Tory MPs fear that Britain is being sucked into "Europe's Vietnam". Their concerns are intensified by the cabinet's decision last week to send HMS *Ark Royal* to the Adriatic to support the 2,500 British troops in the region.



Karadzic: no-fly zone would insult Serbs

Mr Rifkind defended the decision to send the reinforcements, saying they were an "insurance policy". The new forces might not be needed, but if they were called on to improve the safety of British forces, they would be available swiftly.

He went on: "The ground forces will come out either when the job has been fulfilled and there is no longer a cause for humanitarian aid, or when the level of risk becomes unacceptably high. We would

do it tomorrow if it became necessary. We have no intention of letting our ground forces in Bosnia be used for combat purposes in the fighting that is taking place in that part of the world."

A survey of Tory backbenchers by *The Sunday Times* yesterday disclosed deep disquiet about the decision to send *Ark Royal* to the Adriatic. Of 70 MPs who replied, a quarter said Britain should pull its forces out immediately and half said they should be withdrawn if there were considerably more casualties.

There are fears that Serb forces may be tempted to concentrate their fire on British and other troops ferrying aid to Bosnia's war victims as part of a campaign to force them to leave the republic. However, Dr Karadzic declared: "There are no British troops in Serbian territory and anyway we are very friendly to British troops because Britain is not in favour of military intervention."

If the Geneva plan does fall apart, it will be a severe blow to the West's attempts to stop the war in former Yugoslavia. Relations between Europe and America have already been strained by differences over the pace and extent of an air-exclusion zone and Lawrence Eagleburger, the US Secretary of State, last week criticised Britain and France for foot-dragging on the issue. There are also signs that Russia is becoming edgy about the West's hardline approach to Serbia. Moscow is said to have reservations about several paragraphs in the text of the no-fly resolution.

Women of Bosnia, page 12



In memoriam: Corporal Alan Furniss, commander of the Warrior armoured vehicle in which Lance Corporal Wayne John Edwards was killed in Gornji Vakuf last Wednesday, laying a wreath in memory of his fallen comrade in the isolated Bosnian town on Saturday

UN general says only an ultimatum will do

Exasperated United Nations forces in Bosnia want a mandate for action, writes Charles Bremner in Sarajevo

paratrooper said. "The warring parties should be told they will not be allowed to waste any more time playing around. They should be given an ultimatum and told you have one month to comply with the security council's wishes." The only alternative, he believed, was intervention on the ground. The notion of limiting force to air strikes produced a snort of laughter. The burly general from Port Said was speaking to two

journalists in the battered former PTT building on the edge of "sniper alley" as doctors two floors below treated the latest batch of wounded: two French troops who were struck by mortar shrapnel in an attack on the airport. Outside, with the thin January sun filtering through the ruined streets, the residents of Sarajevo gathered provisions for another day's survival. Two floors away, Bernard Kouchner, the French humanitarian

action minister who was on a 24-hour visit, had just arranged the release of 32 Serbs held prisoner in Sarajevo.

For the Egyptian commander, whose force includes French, Ukrainians, Canadians and a half a dozen other nationalities, the failure of the UN to take action was a bitter lesson for the outside world. "Somebody should care about values in Europe. Europe is being killed here. We should not allow the warring parties to violate simple human values." There was some irony, he noted, in an Egyptian observing the failure of Europe to live up to the ideals it had preached to the world. Echoing a view heard from

throughout the UN military in Bosnia, the general said it was frustrating to be unable, under the UN mandate, to do more than escort convoys and distribution. "The people are saying 'let us end the war. Give us our normal lives back'."

The language is tougher from the ordinary soldiers in the firing line. "Forget negotiations, we should just go in and hammer them," one French sergeant major, tired of the impotence of being sitting ducks for snipers, said. "Or get the women and children out and let them have it out with each other."

The warrant officer of the wounded French soldiers said, when he saw his trooper with shrapnel in his skull: "Just let me get the guys who did this."

The emotion is widespread among the French troops who have just relieved the regular unit in place since September.

Everywhere in the Sarajevo force, whether colonial or private, is eager to tell the outside world that they hold the Bosnian Muslim forces responsible for most attacks on UN personnel. About 25 have been killed in Bosnia — among them nine French, about a dozen Ukrainians and one British — since the intervention last autumn. One disillusioned French captain said the whole UN force was effectively serving as hostages.

At the French headquarters at the heavily bombed airport, where General Philippe Morillon, the UN force commander in Bosnia, negotiates laboriously with the warring sides, a staff officer offered a less bleak view. "The Bosnians and the Serbs were beginning to look at each other across the table in the conference room," he said. "Before, they did not shake hands or speak directly. We have to make them understand there is no alternative to negotiations."

Dr Kouchner, who was sent by President Mitterrand to gain access to prison camps, wondered: "Does Bosnia exist any more? I don't know." After talks with President Izetbegovic of Bosnia, Dr Kouchner said the Bosnian Muslims saw the UN operation as a trap for them. The Bosnian-Muslim government wanted weapons to fight off the Serbs. People in the Sarajevo streets seemed to agree. After talking to the political leaders, Dr Kouchner said, he believed the Serbs were going to agree to the terms of the plan drawn up by Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the peace negotiators.

Belgrade accuses Muslims of attack and returns fire

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THE Yugoslav federal government met in emergency session at the weekend as shells allegedly fired by Bosnian Muslim forces fell on the town of Bajina Basta in Serbia. For the first time in the war in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslav army forces also said they had returned fire across the River Drina, claiming that their units guarding the Pertecac hydro-electric plant, near Bajina Basta, were attacked.

The government of rump Yugoslavia accused the Bosnian administration of President Izetbegovic of deliberately firing on its territory to scupper peace talks in Geneva. There were also fears that the mayhem on the Drina might provoke the Yugoslav army into taking more direct action to protect Bosnian Serb outposts. Late last year, General Zivota Panic, head of the army, vowed that his forces would not stand by if Bosnian Serbs were threatened.

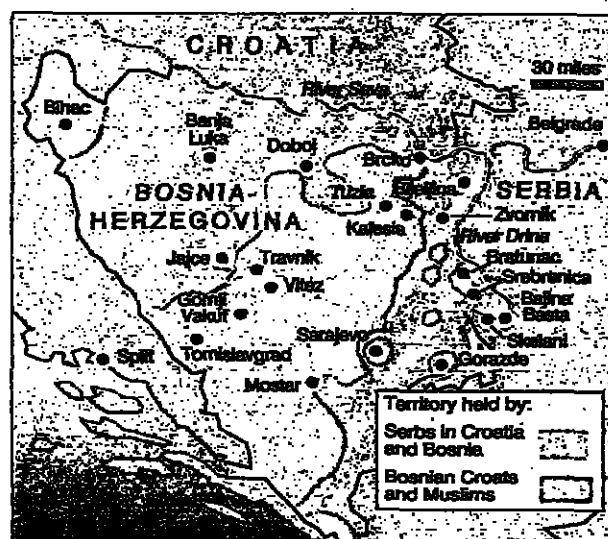
Reports from the Drina valley said that on Saturday Bosnian forces from the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica had launched a dawn raid on the riverside town of Skelani. Fighting was continuing yesterday and, according to Belgrade radio, 46 Serbs had been killed. Thousands of refugees had also flooded across into Serbia.

While the Yugoslav government has accused Bosnian forces of targeting Bajina Basta, it is far from sure that the allegation is true. Separated

only by the river, it would be almost impossible for Bosnian forces, if they were closing in on Skelani, to prevent shells falling on the Serbian bank. Television pictures showed plumes of smoke rising above blazing houses on the hills above Skelani. One witness claimed that the Muslims had been aiming at the bridge across the Drina which links the town with Bajina Basta. While it is possible that Muslim forces might have wanted to provoke a Yugoslav military response to bring down the wrath of the international community on Serbia, there are other possibilities. Serbs controlling the town of Bratunac, to the north, have also been targeting Srebrenica

and, like Skelani, Bratunac has become increasingly isolated. The military there has placed artillery along the Bosnian bank of the Drina to fire up at hilltop Srebrenica. It argued that in this way it was difficult for the Muslims to fire back effectively without shells hitting the Yugoslav bank.

Ljubo Simic, the mayor of Bratunac, has said that he thought that forces in Srebrenica did not want to provoke a response from the army of rump Yugoslavia. "Of course they are not as stupid as to try to provoke Serbia," he said. The Bosnian war began in the Drina valley when Serb forces swooped on towns such as Zvornik to the north and moved south.



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FINANCIAL TIMES
EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

UK stands alone in bolstering forces

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

BRITAIN'S decision to send reinforcements to the Adriatic for its Bosnia contingent has highlighted the frustrations of contributing to a United Nations-run operation.

While the government is being criticised for what amounts to a unilateral move outside the aegis of the UN, defence officials have pointed to the reasoning behind the decision. The idea of sending reinforcements was mooted last month when America began emphasising the need to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. Ministers were advised that enforcement, entailing Western combat jets in the region, could endanger British troops.

There was no discussion within the framework of the

UN, however, about expanding or changing the mandate to allow countries that had infantry battalions in Bosnia to reinforce them with artillery and other heavier equipment. The process of agreeing a draft resolution on enforcing the no-fly zone has already taken weeks of painful negotiations in New York: the resolution may be tabled this week.

London knew that to get an agreement from other members of the security council for reinforcing the troops could have taken even longer. "By then, it would have been too late to rescue our forces or give them extra protection," a defence source said yesterday.

The alternative, agreed by the cabinet, was to send reinforcements as close to Bosnia

as possible without infringing territorial rights or exceeding UN resolutions. That was why the carrier, HMS *Ark Royal*, was chosen as the platform for the reinforcements. The official said: "We may be the only country sending reinforcements but Britain cannot be accused of taking unilateral action over Bosnia because the ships will just be in international waters as part of a contingency operation."

None of the other countries with infantry battalions in Bosnia — France, Spain and Canada — has made any announcements about sending reinforcements. A French defence official said that the chief of staff was studying a range of contingencies. However, Pres-

ident Mitterrand had not indicated any wish to send reinforcements or shown any sign of wanting to withdraw troops from Bosnia. Since French troops were deployed in the Bihac pocket in northern Bosnia and in Sarajevo, eight soldiers have died — three in a traffic accident. One British soldier has been killed.

Yesterday, HMS *Ark Royal* sailed for the Adriatic. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel *Argus*, with six 105mm guns and 300 troops, is also heading for the region.

The soldiers will have a strictly national role, and will not be wearing the UN blue beret. Even if they have to go into Bosnia, they will only do so there for any length of time.

Two years after start of Gulf war, allies launch heavy attacks on key regime installations

Iraqi dictator tells people of assured battlefield victory

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

EXACTLY two years to the day since the American-led forces launched an air offensive against Iraq, the country was again last night hit by allied hostilities.

After a weekend of frantic diplomatic contacts aimed at resolving a dispute between Iraq and the United Nations Security Council special commission, conflict first broke out involving American aircraft and Iraqi ground and air forces in the north of the country, resulting in the shooting down of an Iraqi MIG fighter by an American Air Force F16 — according to the Iraqis, south of the 36th parallel no-fly zone imposed by the US, Britain and France.

Although the action in northern Iraq was very limited, there were mounting fears in the Iraqi capital of a serious escalation, proven by the later raids to be well founded, following a belated and unrepentant speech by President Saddam Hussein, who declared that the Gulf war was not over and promised to bring his people victory on the battlefield. Comparing the current conditions to those before Iraq's defeat of Iranian troops in the Fao peninsula in 1978, the Iraqi leader urged his compatriots to be patient and predicted that "the final and decisive chapter will be a military victory".

Air attacks have resumed, but Iraq believes a new US administration may herald an era of less hostile relations

Arab neighbours, and in particular the ruling al-Sabah family of Kuwait, urging the Kuwaiti people to rise up. "Kuwaiti and Iraqi people are brothers," and the Kuwaiti rulers cannot dismiss that fact," said Saddam, whose invasion and annexation of the emirate led to the allied counter-offensive in Operation Desert Storm.

Saddam accused the Bush administration of abusing its influence in the Security Council, which he likened to "a toy in the hands of the powerful". Referring to the UN charter's chapter for the use of force, he said: "While the UN closes its eyes to the atrocities in Palestine, the same world body rushes repeatedly resolutions against Iraq and always threatens to apply the provisions of chapter seven."

Saddam offered no concrete suggestions during his speech to resolve the dispute between Baghdad and UN weapons inspectors, who are stranded in Bahrain because of Iraq's refusal to offer guarantees for the safety of their missions.

Baghdad: Iraq last night made its third conditional offer in as many days to guarantee the safety of the aircraft over the southern no-fly zone, but insisted that coalition forces suspend their air patrols during its flight.

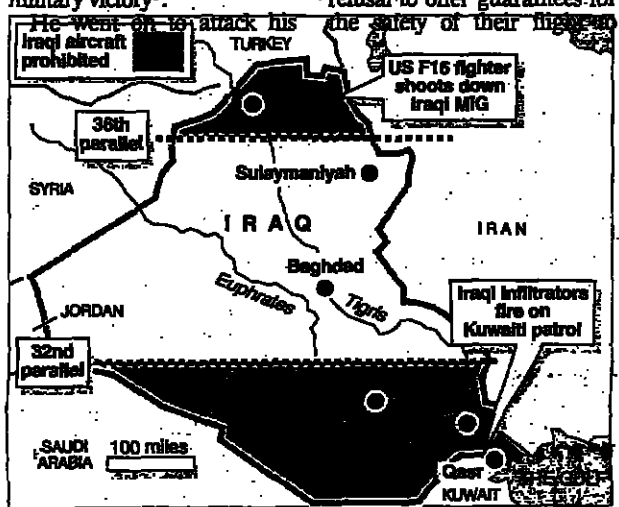
However, there seemed little hope last night that the offer would be accepted. Washington and the UN have insisted repeatedly that they will not accept any conditions attached to the free movement of UN aircraft over Iraq. Also, Baghdad has made no effort to resolve a second outstanding dispute with the UN over the continued presence of Iraqi officers at six border police stations, now regarded as inside Kuwaiti territory.

Following the shooting-down and raids, the continued disputes with the UN and Saddam's belligerent comments, the only hope of a breakthrough appeared to be the change of administration in Washington this week. At the weekend, Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister, said that part of the reason for the continuing crisis in the region was the personal animosity between President Bush and Saddam. Mr Aziz predicted a new relationship could begin after Bill Clinton was sworn in on Wednesday.

Nicosia: Iraqi opposition leaders said yesterday that the best way to topple Saddam was to strike at the Amman al-Qasr, a 20,000-strong presidential guard created to crush all opposition (Michael Theodorou writes).

"The only way to get the army to turn on Saddam is to demoralise the most loyal units closest to him," said Saad Jabr, the son of a former prime minister. "Go for Saddam's palace, go for his bunkers, go for his presidential guards."

Covert Western-inspired attempts to foster a military coup had failed, and opposition groups were too weak and divided to lead an uprising, Mr Jabr said.



Baghdad attack, page 1



Bush telephone: the president consults his press secretary, Marlin Fitzwater, about Iraqi comments as he takes a stroll at Camp David, Maryland

Washington and London deny rift over air raids

BY JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Bush administration and Downing Street denied last night that there had been any rift between them over American plans to launch a punishing and wide-ranging bombing raid against Iraq last Friday.

Marlin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, dismissed as inaccurate American press reports that the planned strike, which would have involved cruise missiles, was put on hold because of a last-minute telephone call from John Major to President Bush urging restraint.

Despite the alacrity with which government officials on both sides of the Atlantic rejected the reports in *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, there would appear to have been a debate late on Friday between London, Paris and Washington over how to deal with Baghdad's refusal to guarantee the safety of United Nations aircraft entering Iraqi airspace. "All the allies are agreed about the objects but the difficulty we all face is the problem of how to juggle with a particularly slippery cell," a diplomat in Washington said.

Cable News Network reported on Saturday night that an allied air strike on Iraq that was planned for Friday was scrubbed in part because Mr Major expressed reservations. A White House spokeswoman said she could not confirm the CNN report on the differences with Downing Street, saying: "It's the first I've heard of it."

According to *The New York Times*, which cited unnamed administration officials, American warplanes have been preparing to bomb Iraq on Friday night after President Saddam Hussein had agreed, shortly before a deadline, to grant clearance for international weapons inspectors to fly into Iraq on UN aircraft but he refused to guarantee the safety of the flights.

Last Friday's allied attack would, the newspaper said, have involved more than a hundred warplanes and cruise missiles attacking targets north of the 32nd parallel, the boundary of the Western-

imposed no-fly zone in southern Iraq. On Wednesday's raid the allies limited themselves to striking at Iraqi radar installations and mobile missile batteries south of the 32nd parallel. The American plan on Friday involved bombing airfields, command posts and weapons installations, including some near Baghdad. Targets would also have included the two radar installations in southern Iraq allied warplanes failed to badly on Wednesday.

There was clearly frustration within the Pentagon at the

US/BRITAIN

poor military results of Wednesday's air raid. Allied warplanes hit only half of their targets and missed three out of four mobile anti-aircraft missile batteries. Much of the pressure for an early follow-up attack on Iraq seems to have come from American defence officials.

The debate on Friday night was made more complicated by the UN special weapons commission, which is charged with destroying weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, granting Baghdad another chance to guarantee the safety of their flights entering Iraq. Although irritated by the UN commission's response to the Iraqi refusal, the British and French clearly felt that the allies had to allow Saddam, for diplomatic form's sake, time to reply to the UN request for safety guarantees. The White House would appear to have been more gung-ho but officials said that it would be wrong to characterise the debate as a rift or a significant disagreement. "The allies operate as a coalition; everything is done by agreement."

In his dismissal of reports that there had been a clash between the allies, Mr Fitzwater said: "Prime Minister Major has been strong and supportive." He said the consultations at the weekend between the allies involved "considerations about the timing of our actions".

Arabs mark anniversary

Baghdad holds carnival to celebrate leader's triumph

BY RICHARD BEESTON

LIKE characters from an Orwellian novel, the neatly dressed pupils of the al-Akida girls' school clapped in unison to proclaim the military prowess of President Saddam Hussein and to celebrate the anniversary of his "victory" against the world.

"We sacrifice our blood and soul for you, Saddam," chanted the daughters of Iraq's ruling elite. They were encouraged by their headmistress, who like teachers across Iraq, was instructed to mark yesterday's anniversary of the start of the Gulf war two years ago with a refresher in the Iraqi version of contemporary Middle East conflict.

While historians may look back at Operation Desert Storm as one of the speediest and most decisive military defeats of the 20th century, in Iraq there is no question, publicly at least, of the outcome. "Of course, Iraq won the war," said Raya al-Shalkhy, 17, who was astounded that anyone should be so ignorant as to question why her brother-in-law was killed, along with tens of thousands of other young Iraqi soldiers, in the legendary Umm al-Maarik, the "mother of all battles".

To ensure that Saddam's message was not lost on their parents as well, Iraqi authorities orchestrated mass demonstrations across the country. Everyone, from housewives to civil servants, was expected to celebrate in almost carnival style the day in 1991 when the first coalition bombs began to fall on Baghdad and other cities.

"We are here to express our feelings against those who waged war against Iraq and were beaten back," said Fadel Gharib, the secretary-general of the General Federation of Iraqi Workers, as he led scores of his comrades on a good-natured march through Baghdad. Pressed to explain to a visiting Westerner how Iraq had been

triumphant, after the lightening recapture of Kuwait, he was momentarily caught off guard. "It is a victory from within," he exclaimed finally, beating his chest.

However, Iraq's leadership is pushing a more ambitious version of events. The tone was set by Izzat Ibrahim, the

deputy chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, who told visiting Muslim delegates that the war against the allies in Kuwait would go down in Islamic lore as a turning point in the struggle against the infidel. "The mother of all battles is the flame that will ignite other struggles," he said, comparing it with the

Emirate still feeling the effects of war

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE second anniversary yesterday of the start of the Gulf war reflected few signs of the new world order that President Bush once hoped it would bring.

As a salute of 21 guns echoed through Baghdad in "reverence of the mother of all battles" — still celebrated there as a victory — there were signs that the latest upsurge in tension has strengthened the internal standing of President Saddam Hussein and his corrupt ruling clique.

In Kuwait, on the other hand, against whose ruling family the Iraqi leader yesterday launched a fierce verbal attack, the government is reeling from a series of financial scandals just as it

defeat by Saladin of the crusader knights at Hattin and the defeat of the Byzantine army at the battle of Yarmouk.

To underline their case, Iraqi television has been broadcasting *Gulf Illusion*, a documentary intended to dispel any doubts that Iraq emerged triumphant from the American-Zionist plot to destroy the Arab world's leading force and dominate oil resources. In case of any confusion in distinguishing the film clips of the troops shown at the front, pictures of American and coalition forces were accompanied by sinister background music which sounded like the soundtrack from *Jaws*. Scenes of Iraqi soldiers were heralded by rousing patriotic folk songs.

was struggling to recover from the ravages of the 1990 invasion which drained off much of its fabulous oil wealth.

The tiny emirate has become so compromised that, after spending more than \$50 billion (\$32.5 billion) on reconstruction, it has had to borrow abroad for the first time, taking out a \$5.5 billion loan. Observers believe the haemorrhaging of wealth through war and scandal could have far-reaching implications for the royal family.

The two main postwar scandals involved the collapse of a \$4 billion Kuwaiti investment empire in Spain and allegations of corruption involving as much as \$100 million in the state-controlled Kuwait Oil Tanker Co, an arm of the oil ministry.

Egyptian minister has talks with Peres

FROM BEN LINFIELD IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI's supreme court yesterday began hearing an appeal to reverse the government's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to Lebanon, while Egypt's foreign minister, Amr Moussa, arrived for talks with Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, in an effort to revive the Middle East peace process.

No date was set for a court ruling. Yosef Harish, the attorney-general, responding to an order issued last month to

show cause for the unprecedented step, said the expulsions were a legal and measured response to a rise in attacks by the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups. The deportees, who have been living in an icy camp between Israeli and Lebanese lines in Marj az-Zahour, held a march yesterday to the Israeli lines to emphasise their desire to return and to mark the second month of their exile.

Civil rights lawyers said that Israel's military establishment was expanding its influence at the expense of the right of the deportees to a fair hearing. "We are speaking about the liberty of all of us. If this can be done, I'm not sure there is anything that cannot be done," said Joshua Schoffman. But Mr Harish warned the judges that annulling the two-year expulsions "would deal a lethal blow to the security establishment with consequences we cannot foresee."

Mr Moussa said after meeting Shimon Peres, Israel's foreign minister, that he wanted to resolve the dispute over the expulsions so that Arabs and Israelis could restart talks next month. "We are for resuming the peace process as soon as possible. A lot of hopes are pinned on that process. It is in our interest to assure its success," he said. Mr Peres ruled out a substantial policy shift, saying it would be wrong "to give a prize to Hamas".

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Conflict with Saddam tarnishes Clinton's \$25m inaugural party

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton finally arrived in Washington yesterday for five days of spectacular inaugural celebrations that will, he hopes, obliterate memories of a sour transition and generate fresh enthusiasm for his incoming administration.

However, the danger was that the whole \$25 million (£16 million) extravaganza would be overshadowed, and made to look inappropriate, by the escalating conflict with Iraq. Never before has an outgoing president embarked so late in his term on the course George Bush has chosen and bequeathed his successor such a pressing crisis.

On a cold, bright day Mr Clinton and Al Gore, the vice president-elect, arrived in a capital awash with flags and bunting on their campaign bus from Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home. Later they and their wives were attending a concert and an evening fireworks display, the prelude to a succession of

balls, parties and parades. After his worst publicity since last year's primary season, Mr Clinton's aides hoped the minutely planned inauguration, with its emphasis on openness and public participation, would give the incoming president the sort of boost that the Democratic convention gave him last July.

According to one Democrat, morale in the transition team in Little Rock was "awful" by the end of last week. The media attacked Mr Clinton for breaking campaign promises and the tardiness of his preparations. Compounding his problems, the White House has ordered more than 650 Bush officials to resign by noon on Wednesday, when Mr Clinton is sworn in, leaving practically no one to run the government.

Mr Clinton has made barely 100 appointments including his cabinet and White House staff, and very few at sub-cabinet level. Late in the day

the Clinton team asked the White House to allow some Republicans to stay on temporarily, but this was refused. Constance Horner, White House personnel chief, told *The New York Times*: "The Clinton people have changed their mind. They're stuck now. They are jerking us around. It's too late."

One casualty of Mr Clinton's unpreparedness could be the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the agreement to liberalise world trade that Mr Bush fought to complete before leaving office. Arthur Dunkel, the GATT director-general, said at the weekend that that was now impossible.

Zoe Baird, the attorney-general-designate, meanwhile paid a \$2,900 fine on Saturday for hiring two illegal Peruvian immigrants as household helps and failing to pay their social security taxes.

Clinton changeover, page 1



Emotional farewell: Chelsea Clinton, 12, daughter of the president-elect, fighting back tears at a weekend send-off for the new first family at Little Rock, Arkansas, airport

World of disorder undermines the domestic agenda

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AT 12.01pm on Wednesday, George Bush bequeathed President Saddam Hussein to Bill Clinton, but the Iraqi leader will be simply the most egregious of a daunting pile of foreign crises that the new incumbent at the White House will inherit.

In Bosnia, tens of thousands of innocent people could die from cold, starvation or Serb brutality during Mr Clinton's first few months in office. Oppressed Haitians are threatening to set sail for America in numbers of equal magnitude. President Yeltsin and his reforms are floundering in Russia. American forces must be extricated from Somalia, and US intervention is required to save the Middle East peace talks. Ethnic conflicts, trade tensions and nuclear armaments multiply.

No recent president has taken power with the world demanding so much of his attention, let alone one elected to focus on America's domestic problems. No president since Harry Truman has assumed office with the world so unstable. No president ever has been sworn in with America the world's unchallenged leader and all the responsibilities that entails. It is a huge burden for a governor of one of America's smallest, most backward states. Truman had the visionary Dean Acheson to guide him. Mr Clinton's Secretary of State is to be Warren Christopher, a grey, inscrutable Carter administration alumnus who may be a consummate manager and negotiator, but who is a highly unlikely architect of a new world order.

Mr Christopher's appointment suggests that the new president will be developing administration foreign policy himself, leaving the Secretary of State to execute it. During the Carter years, Mr Christopher was a confirmed dove. He reportedly balked at plans to kill Revolutionary Guards during the aborted 1980 mission to rescue American hostages in Tehran. However, in this week's Senate confirmation hearings, Mr Christopher said: "The discreet and careful use of force in certain circumstances — and its credible threat in general — will be essential to the success of our foreign policy."

The end of the Cold war has changed old calculations about using force. The United States can now intervene militarily without fear of triggering a third world war. "Stealth" planes and "smart" bombs can minimise American casualties. Former doves now favour intervention on humanitarian grounds, while old hawks insist that America should avoid entanglement unless US interests are directly threatened. Mr Clinton, who opposed Vietnam and equivocated over Operation Desert Storm, is a case in point. In Somalia, Bosnia and, latterly, Iraq, he has declared his willingness to use force. Clinton aides expect an

early challenge from Saddam, and hint broadly at a tougher line against the Iraqi dictator. The incoming president has solicited advice from such hawks as Laurie Myrland, of the Harvard Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, who advocates Saddam's removal. "It's striking how they are considering options that will indicate to Saddam he cannot get away scot-free," said one source who is familiar with the thinking of the president-elect.

On Bosnia, Mr Clinton apparently believes that Mr Bush erred in advising his unwillingness to intervene militarily to rein in Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president. He is sending the opposite signals. He has not ruled out air strikes against Serb positions, or lifting the arms embargo on the Bosnians. Mr Christopher said on Wednesday that the world "must bring real pressures, economic and military, to bear on the Serbian leadership", and unilateral American action was not impossible.

A Clinton doctrine for the post-Soviet world has yet to emerge, but Mr Christopher champions a preventive diplomacy that anticipates and heads off crises such as those



WHITE HOUSE HANDOVER

in Bosnia, Somalia and Iraq. Only then could Mr Clinton concentrate on the three pillars of his foreign policy — enhancing American economic growth by opening markets, promoting democracy, and retaining strong defences. To those three pillars, Mr Christopher added the strengthening of collective security. American military power was "the main ballast for an unstable world", he said, but "we cannot let every crisis around the globe become a choice between inaction or American intervention".

□ Miami As US Coast Guard vessels tighten an immigration stranglehold on the seas around Haiti to prevent boat people trying to head for Florida, there are signs that the Haitian military is giving in to international pressure to restore democracy (David Adams writes). In a brief statement, Haiti's military high command said that it supported a United Nations proposal "for launching the process aimed at moving democracy forward in Haiti".

Coast guards picked up 256 refugees at the weekend on three boats. They were sent back to Port-au-Prince.



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Transition Notebook

Great Little Rock band hits the road

Bill Clinton completed his top appointments in the nick of time last week, and Oxford University must be delighted by the number of its alumni who will be running America for the next four years.

Apart from Mr Clinton (University College), they include Robert Reich (University) as labour secretary, Les Aspin as defence secretary, and James Woolsey (St John's) as director of the CIA. George Stephanopoulos (Balliol) is to be the White House communications director. Ira Magaziner (Balliol) will be Mr Clinton's senior adviser for policy development, and Bruce Reed will be the president's deputy domestic policy assistant.

Most of the above, including Mr Clinton, were Rhodes scholars, and Rhodes scholarships are now all the rage. A record number of 1,305 Americans applied last autumn.

Mr Clinton bade a nostalgic farewell to Arkansas on Saturday. As the removal men did their work, he went for a last jog through Little Rock, embraced his friends and neighbours of the past 12 years, and took his daughter, Chelsea, down to the

Arkansas River to release her pet frog. It could have a more normal life there than in Washington, said Chelsea, who is learning fast.

Only the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Mr Clinton's *bête noire*, did not seem sorry to see him go. Denouncing "William Jefferson (Stuck) Clinton" for reneging on his campaign pledge to give Haitian boat people refuge, it sent him off with an editorial headlined "Another Betrayal: Surprise Us, Mr President-Elect."

Every president has an embarrassing relative, and it appears that Mr Clinton will be no exception. Roger Clinton, 36, a former cocaine addict, is already cashing in on his half-brother's fame. Atlantic Records has signed a \$200,000 (£130,000) contract with his less-than-distinguished band to record its first album. Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola are reportedly discussing endorsement deals, and he has also been signed up to give speeches around the country for as much as \$10,000 each.

MARTIN FLETCHER
Diary, page 14

disorder
ines the
agenda

Resurgent civil war 'kills 2,000'

Angola troops drive rebels out of cities

FROM SAM KILEY IN LOBITO, SOUTHERN ANGOLA

UNITA rebels have been driven out of almost all the cities they took over shortly after the Angolan elections in September. In Lobito, once a UNITA stronghold, it was clear at the weekend that Angola had been plunged back into the civil war which raged between 1974 and 1991 before it was interrupted for 16 months during a peace accord.

Middle-class civilian men, mostly mixed-race former soldiers who had been demobilised last year as part of the peace process, sat in the "caca bar" in central Lobito and watched war stories about how they had joined Angolan soldiers in a rout of UNITA soldiers in the town. One ousted: "When we attacked the UNITA offices, they did not expect us. They had no guns. The first person to be killed by us was shot by a 16-year-old boy and then we threw grenades into the building."

No accurate number of dead from three days of fighting was available but most

observers agreed that at least 2,000 people were killed in Lobito, Angola's second port, and in Benguela, 30 miles north. In both cities, officials from the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) insisted that the attacks on rebel soldiers, led by Jonas Savimbi of UNITA (the Union for the Total Independence of Angola) were provoked by the rebels. But the cynical, and total, destruction of all UNITA positions and residences pointed to a planned assault by government forces which simultaneously have driven the rebels out of another dozen cities.

At the height of the civil war, the government was backed by the Soviet Union and 50,000 Cuban troops while UNITA was supplied by America and supported on the ground and in the air by South Africa. Then, as now, MPLA supporters felt safe enough to brag in the bars of the cities, but UNITA controlled the countryside: the war was

between country boys and city boys. In Lobito, supporters of UNITA who have not been killed or fled are careful to hide their allegiances. "They must be hunted down and killed. This war will never end until they have been wiped out," said Jeronimo Mateus, 30, a former member of the Angolan secret service. A comrade who joined Mr Mateus during the recent fighting admitted secretly that while rank-and-file UNITA supporters were not being persecuted, "we go to the high-ranking one's houses in the night and shoot them."

UNITA has rejected an invitation to peace talks with the Angolan government in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, and called for UN intervention in the country.
Nairobi: Kenyan police, outraged at the killing of two officers, injured 15 people and ransacked commercial buildings in the capital on Saturday in a search for the assailants. (AFP)



Prisoners of war: children in the Somali village of Buale awaiting relief from the World Food Programme. The village, 230 miles southwest of Mogadishu, has been cut off by war and floods for months and been spared from starvation only by airdrops of food. American

troops of the multinational task force meanwhile uncovered their biggest arms find yet about ten miles northwest of the Somali capital. But American forces also killed at least three innocent Somalis by accident during a shoot-out with bandits attempting to hijack a civilian truck

near Mogadishu, a US military spokesman said. An army squad on Saturday stumbled on five underground concrete bunkers about 40 yards long and 10 yards wide, stacked to the ceiling with ammunition and assault rifles, mainly from the former Soviet Union. Some of

the arms were from Egypt, which supplied the army of Mohamed Siad Barre, the former president. Ten Somalis, not identified with any clan militia, had been guarding the bunkers, apparently in the hope that it could be used to rebuild the army, a US officer said. (Reuters)

Rao picks fresh team to tackle turmoil

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Indian prime minister, V. Narasimha Rao, brought his experienced men into his new cabinet yesterday in a widespread reshaping of his government to tackle the country's worst problems. Mr Rao said he had topped 14 of his 54 ministers, all of whom, to their surprise, were asked to resign a dinner party he gave at 10.30 on Saturday. The new reformist cabinet is being sworn in last night. The outgoing team, torn by dissent after weeks of violence and political chaos in the country, had practically ceased functioning, with ministers concentrating on political infighting. Mr Rao has lost the faith of any of his closest supporters, and several rivals are preparing leadership bids for later this year. In addition, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is drawing up plans to analyse government business in four states.



Rao: hosted dinner to call for resignations

Malaysia to rein in power of sultans

BY MATT GEORGE

THE days of fast cars and unbridled power for the sultans of Malaysia are drawing to an end. The Malaysian parliament, in a special sitting today, will begin a debate to strip the country's nine hereditary rulers of their immunity from the law and power to pardon family members from criminal charges, a privilege enjoyed under the constitution for generations.

The constitutional amendments were introduced by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the prime minister, after an assault on a school hockey coach in November by the irascible Sultan Iskandar Ismail, the ruler of the southern state of Johore. MPs have since aired about 20 cases of assault by the 60-year-old ruler and his sons, one of which allegedly resulted in the death of a golf caddy.

The government has accused other rulers of abusing their powers by refusing to pay import duties on Lamborghinis, Ferraris and other luxury cars, interfering in politics and the running of their states, and grabbing logging concessions and business opportunities meant for their subjects. Dr Mahathir's attempt to curb the excesses of the monarchs, who elect one of their number as king every five years, is certain to win passage because of the huge parliamentary majority of his ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO).

He has said the bill would be tabled regardless of the wishes of the rulers. A majority of sultans, initially opposed to the bill, agreed at the weekend to their powers being limited.

Tokyo keeps quiet in Burma rail row

FROM NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK

KIUCHI Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, has made several statements against past militarism during his present tour of Southeast Asia.

However, in Thailand at the weekend he refused to be drawn into an argument over a controversial war memorial that stands alongside the famous bridge on the River Kwai, west of Bangkok. Attempts by some Japanese residents to involve him were blocked by other sections of the Japanese community.

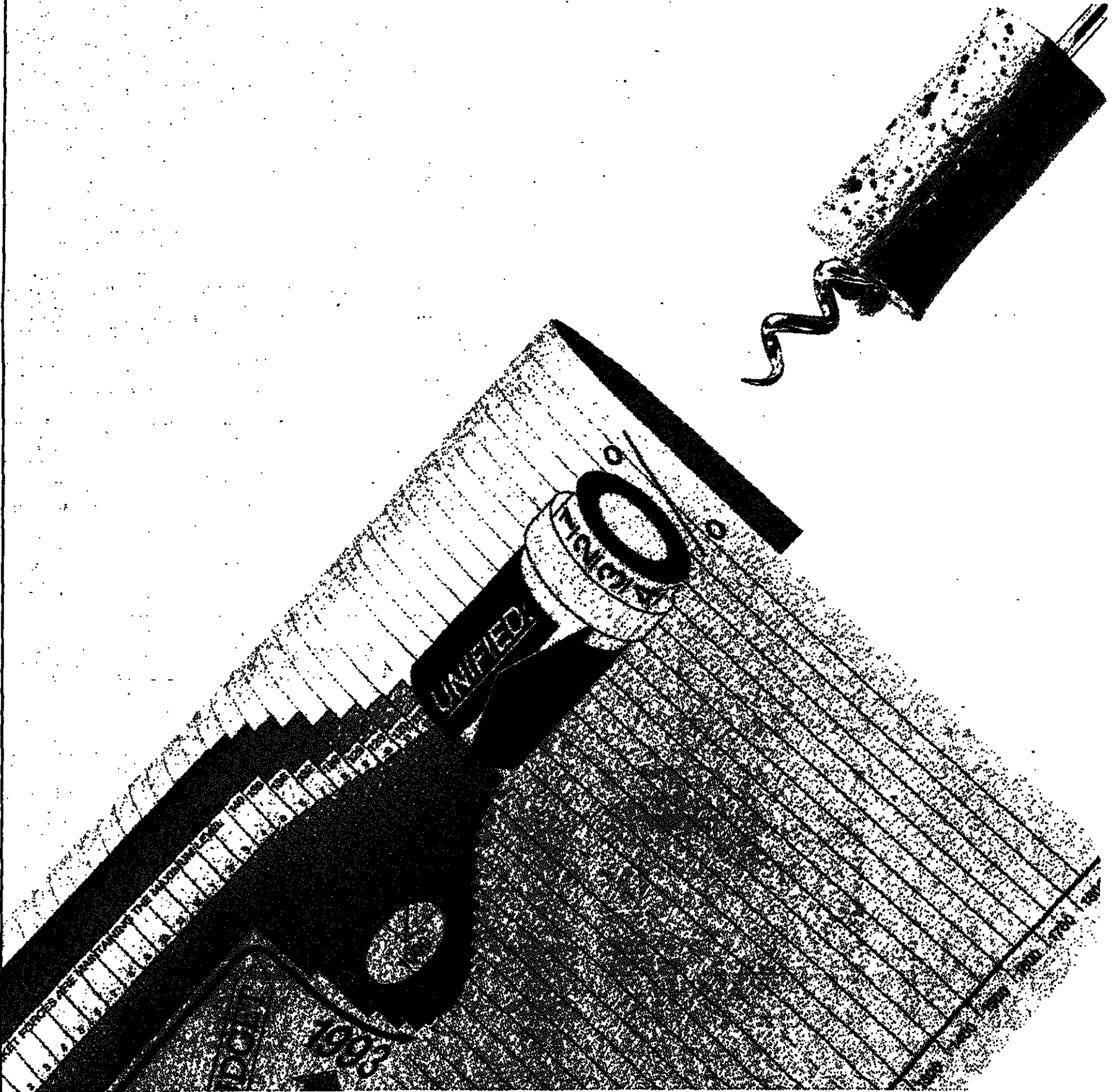
When the Japanese army was facing defeat in the second world war, it erected the monument in memory of 16,000 allied prisoners of war and 100,000 conscripted Asians who perished building the "death railway" linking Thailand and Burma. The inscription has upset many British, Australian, Dutch and American tourists and former POWs, particularly the reference to "personnel of the allied forces and nationals of other countries who helped in the construction of the railway and died through illness".

Donald Wise, a British journalist and writer who worked on the railway, said: "The monument gives the impression that we actually wanted to help the Japanese build the railway." One Japanese veteran was so outraged by the words that he built his own shrine nearby as a gesture to the allied victims.

Some visitors have defaced the lettering, and other protests prompted diplomats at the Japanese embassy in Bangkok to ask the local Japanese community to compose a new inscription. It was agreed that it should state that allied POWs and conscripted Asians were starved and beaten to death while working on the railway. A more bland statement was later chosen, apparently after pressure from Tokyo. Some Japanese residents are now trying to make the wording more accurate.

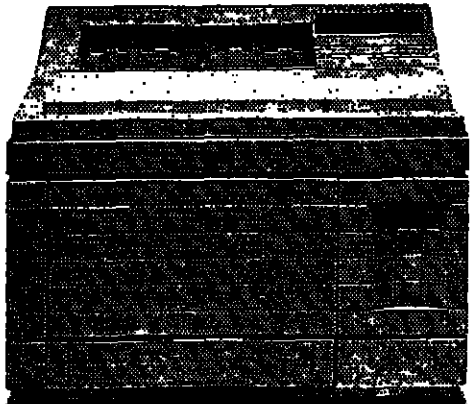
Mr Miyazawa refused to join the argument but said that the most important message he had for Southeast Asia was a vow that Japan would never become a military power again.

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Where's that thinking-mat?

I do not want to meet Walt Lacey, described as a "company psychologist". More particularly I do not want to meet his eye. He knows too much. He says that people in business have a "perverse love for meetings whether or not they produce anything useful".

Meetings waste money, he pointed with approval to managers like Xerox Corporation's, who ban internal meetings unless their profitability outweighs the cost and set time limits or remove all the chairs from the room. The only thing he didn't say was "Bah, humbug".

To those of us who are never happier than when dreaming the day away in congenial company with our elbows on a mahogany table, this seems a very brutal approach. Everyone else suffering from a "perverse love" these days is urged to find treatment for it. They get counselling, understanding, telephone helplines, group therapy and endless self-analytical talk. In other words, they get lots and lots of lovely meetings. But the conference addict is rarely told to snap out of it and never mind the trauma.

Mr Lacey believes in cold turkey: cancel Any Other Business, whip away the table and the chairs and make people roam restlessly around the room like chaps eating porridge at Balmoral.

I must admit, I have at certain phases of my life tended to side with him. The BBC could quite easily cure any taste for conclave: I walked in last Monday just after the new DG had come on the televisions, and the digital clock by the lift was showing a disturbingly Orwellian 94.00. Through glass windows I could see roomful of chins resting on fists in Karsh-of-Ottawa poses. That day, for once, I crept with a thankful heart to my lonely outsider's duties.

And there was a period of trying to get home for baby bathtimes when I spent inescapable meetings silently cursing the happy addicts around me. I longed, then, for Mr Lacey to storm in and pinch the chairs, even if that meant all the women in power heels were put at a disadvantage over men in big flat brogues. As for Booker prize jury meetings, they would cure anyone of the taste. Four hours in to one, the chairman said "It's like comparing a candle and a waterfall" and I wanted to shout "I hate candles, I hate waterfalls, isn't there one that's more like a hot-cross bun?", before diving under the table and biting people's legs.



LIBBY PURVES

fore diving under the table and biting people's legs.

But I have come back to an appreciation of the fatal seductiveness of the meeting. Oddly enough, it was thanks to the very babies whose bathtime I used to flee home to. Watch a reception class at a primary school: undirected individualists not yet quite five years old, baffled and excited with a concentration span of about two minutes. Outside it is dull and rainy, and Murmury is ratty after four gruelling years of one-to-one interaction as prescribed by the motherhood books. Inside the school, it is warm and bright.

And what happens first? Teacher sits you down on a nice soft carpet in a semicircle and begins to make sense of the day. "Now who knows what a tadpole grows into?" That's right, Kylie. A frog. This morning - let's sit still. Jake - we're going to make a big pond together and put all our frogs in it with our own names on. Security, direction, leadership, common purpose all begin at this first and archetypal meeting. No wonder, faced with the harshness of actual working, we poor retards long to get back to it.

Because it is snatched away so soon, I remember hearing in the back of my car a boy of seven scornfully warning his sister that in Class 2 things would be damn well different. "Look," he said wistfully. "It's not like Class 1. You don't sit round on the thinking-mat and talk things over. You have to work all the time and not talk."

Lesser wearings have brought on all sorts of "perverse loves": I really do think Mr Lacey should have a bit of sympathy. But if his ideas gain currency and they take away the chairs, you now know what to do. Snuggle in a thinking-mat, if necessary with the presence that it is for lunchtime aerobics. Sit down, get comfortable and defy the man.

Fighting behind the lines

Women have forced the world to face the horror of the Balkans — now, says Alice Thomson, they may never accept their old role



Face of suffering: a woman at the Resnik refugee camp, a former army barracks without heat or lighting

B oxes of donated condoms lie neglected in the storeroom of the Resnik refugee camp near Zagreb, Croatia. "It was a nice gesture from someone but I am afraid that condoms are the last thing these women want to see," Dr Aina Muslic says.

Dr Muslic, a Bosnian Muslim, has been working at Resnik for the past six months looking after 1,500 mothers, young girls and children many of whom carry the shame of having been raped or have seen family and friends being brutally treated. After three members of her family were killed by a mortar, Dr Muslic was offered asylum in Germany but, like many women from Croatia and Bosnia, she was so appalled by the stories of rape and violence that she decided she had to do something to help.

Glamorous guerrilla chicks in sunglasses, chewing gum with their rifles nonchalantly slung across their shoulders, are the exception in the Balkans. Neither Muslim, Croatian or Serbian, women are naturally assertive but they are taking the initiative in other ways.

They have compiled testimonies, provided psychiatric support, medical attention and aid for refugees. It is their constant pressure on human rights organisations and lobbying of journalists that has as much as anything else exposed to the world the real victims of the war. As men were called up or fled abroad, mothers, wives and daughters have been left to fill the gaps. Many who have found their independence will not go back to their stores.

A heart has been etched into the snow at the entrance of Resnik but it is a deeply depressing place. A former army barracks stuck in the middle of nowhere, it has no heat or lighting. Refugees huddle along the ice to collect firewood and their washing hangs frozen on the line. "It is the young rape victims that traumatised me most, the ones who have never had sex before. Many mothers try to hide their daughters' shame even if the girls are suffering physically. But you can tell. They are the ones who cannot look you in the eye. They don't volunteer to teach the children or work in our hospital," says Dr Muslic who leads ten female doctors. "We have to reach out to these women and tell them they are heroes and not traitors. We provide medical check-ups and welcome them back."

Visna Milas, a large, homely Croatian woman, lives in Zagreb with her two sons and daughter and is an editor at the Lexicographical Institute. Eighteen months ago one son was called up to the Yugoslav National Army and found himself fighting first against the Slovenes and then against his own people. "The Croatian boys were used as human shields. Many who weren't shot in the front were shot in the back. Eventually they discharged my son for mental illness," Mrs Milas says bitterly.

That is when she decided to set up Mothers For Peace. She got 3,000 mothers to go to Belgrade to plead with the generals to stop the atrocities. They were greeted by 20,000 soldiers but that did not put them off. Next they went to Brussels, then Geneva, Bonn and London to lobby for world intervention.

"Every human rights law has been broken, handicapped children have been killed, churches desecrated and concentration camps set up. All sides

are playing basketball with children's lives. It's the ones between 11 and 21 that have really suffered. They watch their youth crumbling round them. A young rape victim I saw has now developed epilepsy. Last week a boy came back from the army and killed ten of his family and friends. No one could understand why, but I could."

The women's travels proved frustrating. "No one believed us. The world is a year and a half late. This disaster could have been thwarted in 24 hours if UN forces had gone in immediately. No one gave us any medicine and now Bosnia is dying. You must send more troops immediately," she says. But what about the mothers of British troops who might be killed in the resulting action? "What are 1,000 soldiers' lives if two million people are saved?" The group has expanded to 9,000

Croatian and Bosnian women. Some became experts at kidnapping their men men back from the Yugoslav army using bribes and disguises, others are helping the one million refugees now in Croatia, taking testimonies.

They successfully lobbied for an increase in the abortion limit in Croatia for rape victims, to three months, and are organising adoptions of unwanted babies. "Our babies are cheap for the British. They are good looking, fair-skinned and save your conscience. But we feel they should stay near their homeland with Bosnian or Croatian families," Mrs Milas says.

Next door her son is staring inanely at the soap opera *Santa Barbara* on the television, the volume

turned up to screeching. His mother shrugs. "What can you do in a situation like this. A poet writes a poem. A musician a song. A young man takes up arms. It is left to women to provide the rational, intellectual argument."

In an old barber's shop in the downtown area of Zagreb middle-aged women with heavy fringes and strong jawbones congregate for their weekly meeting of the HPP, a Croatian-style Women's Institute. A straggle of older husbands wait meekly at the back among piles of donated clothes. At the beginning of the war the Croatian women had been horrified when they saw photographs of their sons looking painfully thin and fighting with no socks and wearing bright red jumpers.

"We decided to organise uniforms and food for them and to knit them

socks so they wouldn't think we had forgotten them," says Vesna Villi, a graphic designer. The women go up to the front-line every weekend distributing provisions and writing up shopping lists. So far hundreds of women have baked 40,000 cakes, knitted 5,000 pairs of socks, lobbied endless firms to provide sleeping bags, tents and water bottles and paid visits to wounded soldiers.

Sometimes they get caught up in the fighting and the soldiers are terrified. Mrs Villi is more worried about the relief aid. "People give such odd things. The people of Ohio, America sent over 5,000 toy angels and Father Christmases for the Muslim children of Sarajevo. The British give babies' toothbrushes. Sixty per cent of the medicines are too old. The 'fill a shoebox' campaign was the worst. People would send one nappy and a candle and that takes up precious space for the convicts into Bosnia. It is money aid agencies need not cast-offs."

Normally these women would have nothing to do with the "lesbian feminists down the road" now they have become firm friends with

'All sides play basketball with children's lives. They watch their youth crumbling round them'

Karar, the first feminist group in Yugoslavia and the first group to bring to light cases of women being raped. Asy Armadr used to run a souvenir shop on the coast before joining Karar. "When the concentration camps for men started being reported we immediately realised the women must be suffering too. After all, rape is cheaper than bullets."

In Serbia the story is similar although the women would not think of 'combining forces'. Women for peace may be the slogan but peace through victory is what most have in mind. Every Wednesday Women in Black, a peace group, demonstrate their disagreement with the Serbian regime and lobby for peace. They are angry that the West seems interested only in the plight of the Muslims. "The reality is that rape is a military tactic used by all armies against women of the enemy side, and that children on both sides are dying," says Zorica Trisunovic, from the Centre for Anti-War Action. She has established a centre for Serbian victims of rape and is also lobbying the government to accept the idea of conscientious objectors.

Other Serbian women have picked up another disturbing trend. SOS hotline is the first Balkan helpline for victims of domestic violence. It was set up 14 months ago and the 250 volunteers have already received 4,000 calls.

In wartime men prefer their women to be Barbie dolls rather than Action Men. But war in the Balkans seems to have made the women less rather than more dependent on their menfolk. Left to cope on their own, they have discovered to their surprise that they are more than capable of doing so.

EHRMAN TAPESTRY KIT OFFER

Susanna Lisle's Oriental Cats



Susanna Lisle's Cat tapestries have been tremendously popular with their charming, naive appeal. Recently she moved with her family from Dorset to Singapore, where her husband has been posted. Inspired by the rich, vibrant colours of the East, she has designed her next pair of cat tapestries incorporating these new influences in her work. Her garlanded Cats, one sitting in front of a Thai temple, the other surrounded by parasols, are in soft shades of pink, yellow and cream. In contrast to this, the background scenes in both designs are a wonderful blaze of rich jewel-like colours: azure blue, saffron and crocus yellows, emerald, lilac, Venetian red, magenta, sapphire and burnt ochre. They make magnificent cushions or framed pictures.

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Questions of rights

What exactly will the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Bill — now at committee stage — mean to pregnant women?

Under the new act, which is implementing the EC Pregnant Workers' Directive (adopted in October 1992), no matter how long a woman has worked for her employer, she will be entitled to 14 weeks continuous maternity leave during which time her job is held open. Current law states that pregnant women who have worked less than two years full-time for five years part-time for the same employer have no legal right to time off or any guarantee that their job remains open.

Women who have worked two years full-time (or five years part-time) for the same employer will still be entitled to the current 40 weeks leave. Apart from pay, all contractual rights (pension, car and so on) are maintained during the 14 weeks leave, although the act does not protect contractual rights after that time for those women entitled to longer leave. The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) argues that this may be in breach of the EC directive.

The 14-week leave can be taken when the employer and employee mutually agree. Last week, the government hastily announced plans to introduce an amendment for women who are ill during the last stages of pregnancy. Less than 14 weeks be used up before the birth, the employment department has undertaken to consider "a formula" for sick leave.

The social security department has not yet produced any figures on pay during the 14 weeks but, according to the EC directive, it has to be "equiva-

How a new act will benefit mothers

lent to that which a woman would receive during sickness absence". This could be £45.30 a week (minimum statutory sick pay) or £41.20 (sickness benefit). However, the directive also states that the amount cannot be less than existing maternity rights. The lowest maternity right is £42.25.

Another complication is that the government is entitled under the EC directive to pay only those who have worked for one year. Those who have not might end up with leave without pay.

The new act decrees that "the dismissal of a woman at any time from the beginning of her pregnancy up to the end of her maternity leave is automatically unfair, ineffective of length of service or hours of work, unless it is for a reason unconnected with pregnancy or childbirth, in which case the employer must give the employee written reasons for the dismissal".

Nevertheless, as the EOC says: "Employers rarely admit openly that pregnancy is the reason... the burden of proof should be on the employer." Current law stipulates that a woman who has worked two years (full-time) or five years (part-time) for the same employer cannot be dismissed because she is pregnant.

Pregnant, new and breastfeeding mothers who would otherwise have to be suspended from unsafe work, will now have the right to alternative suitable employment or (if this

is not available) to suspension on full pay. The act does not include the continuation of any contractual rights (for example, car, pension and so on) which the directive says it should do. Nor is there any clear definition of what is "unsuitable work".

All EC member states have to put the directive into practice by October 1994. But the employment department hopes the act will become law by this autumn.

JANE BIDDER



Eyeing the future: more protection is on the way

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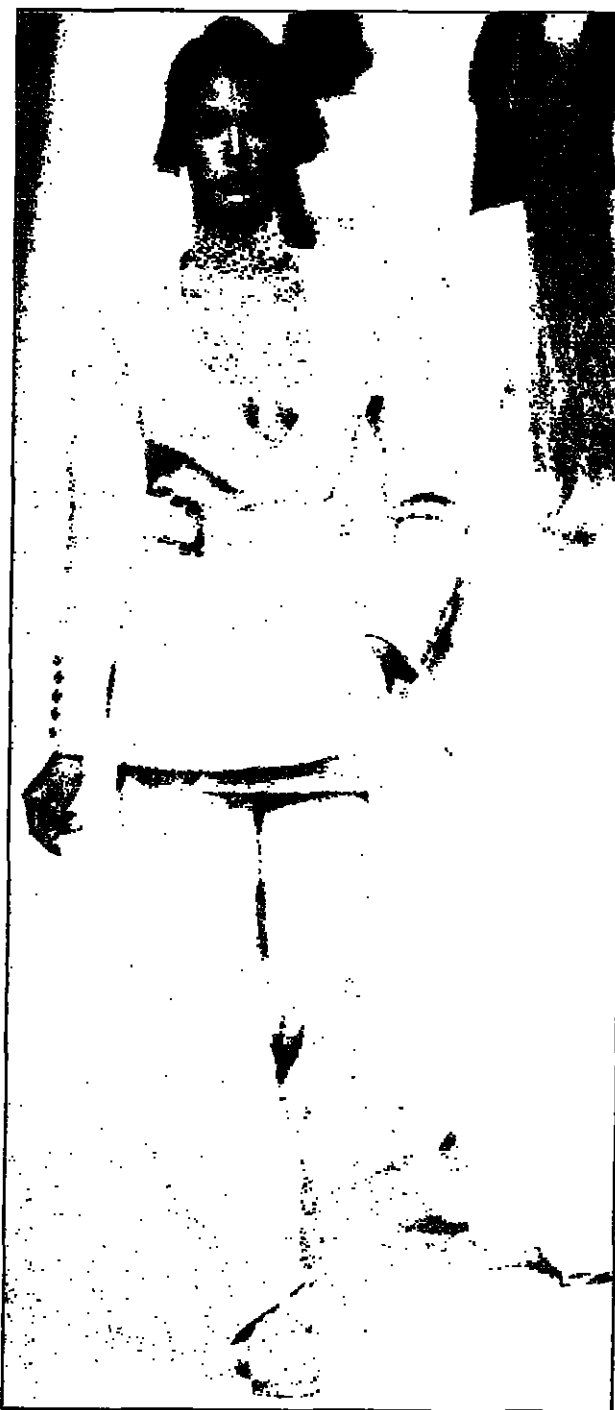
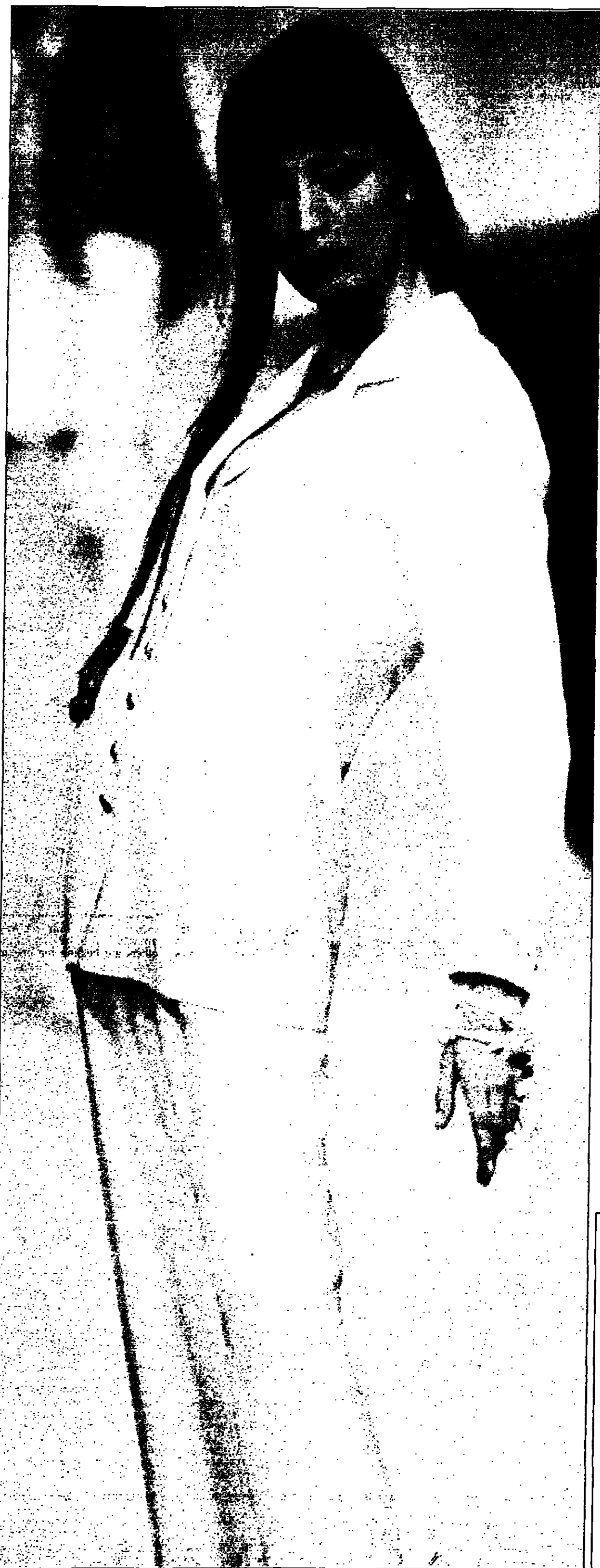
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After a mixed season of the droopy neo-hippy, fashion in flux — the look is long, lean and languid

Hot pants



Fashion
IAIN R. WEBB

ANY woman who suffered pangs of envy having seen last week's menswear story will be pleased to hear that the trouser suit has now become an established part of her wardrobe. So much so, that it is no longer necessary to discuss it in terms of being a manish look, or cogitate its beginnings. In 1993, the ladies' trouser suit simply exists.

While the debate over skirt lengths still rages, clever designers have unanimously pitched the two-piece pant suit as a stylish alternative. A seemingly sensible choice for long, spring days, it emerged from the collections like an elegant phoenix. Amid a mixed season of shows which saw neo-hippy pastiches drooping along the runways, with earth mothers and sexy ladies fighting for centre stage, while gypsies and grungey tramps stole the limelight, it became obvious that fashion is in flux. Even greater change lies ahead. The ragbag of ideas which floated down the catwalks are just the designers' way of retracing their steps, rethinking tomorrow. In a way, what we were offered at the October shows were the sketchbooks from which a whole new look will be born. It was a scrapbook of references.

Even though the trouser suit has been shown for the past few seasons, its reappearance among such a jumble is a welcome surprise for the woman who wants something easy to wear. Something a little more sophisticated, while falling in with the trend for soft and fluid. The elongated silhouette maintains a graceful line, even though the emphasis has moved away from the strictly tailored.

For those who still hanker after the security of the boxy little power suits, so popular in the 1980s, it provides a smart option. But, there any similarity must end. The new mood suit is a million miles away in style from that sharp-edged, short shock. What's now is long, lean and languid. The best of all come from the masters of



Variations on a theme: the sculpted fabric of Claude Montana's designs epitomise the resurfacing of flair in fashion

Photographs: Chris Moore

out: Claude Montana and Giorgio Armani. With their individual tone, each produced stunning variations on the theme.

Few designers can sculpt fabric like Claude Montana. His modern, spare style has made him a challenging name in fashion, yet there are few who fail to be moved by the simple beauty of his clothes. His carved silhouettes prove that pure restraint can be as arresting as any overblown finery. A minimalist in colour and form, his trousers are the template for

the season. They epitomise the flair which has resurfaced in fashion, falling from the hip into billowing columns which stop just short of the floor. High heels make the leg longer still, and the effect even more dramatic.

Montana's jackets are free from tricky detailing. His trick is clever cutting. Oversized lapels flow effortlessly into the body of a jacket. Curves outline the form, shaping it with sensual caresses. Belted, buttoned, or buckled, his jackets are simply the best. The epitome of elegance. Milky whites, and anaemic flesh tones give Montana's trouser suits a superiority of icy cool. Crystal chokers, bracelets and long drop earrings only add to the magic.

Armani has triumphed for years, where women in pants are concerned. Sticking to his penchant for natural tones, he colours the daytime looks in his collection with barely distinguishable hues. Creams merge into palest greys, which in turn become soft browns. Sky blues fade into white. Fine muted checks are the only pattern. Always one for the "less-is-more" school of thought, Armani has added a new thin shawl

collar to some of his jackets, while others are as simple as they can be — bereft of any detail which might clutter the line. As a nod in the direction of his Eastern trail evening concoctions, a short, gently draped wrap skirt is sometimes worn over the trousers.

Of course the collections were full of other triumphant trouser suits. Gucci's dove grey double-breasted jackets with large demob-style lapels are saved from the realms of the stern by seductive shaping. They curve into the waist, and out over the hips, where they are met by generously-cut trousers. Another designer who took this route was Alberta Ferretti (adding Cagney pin-stripes — still popular). Both showed the suit against naked skin, minus the shirt and tie shenanigans we have come to expect, and devoid of any jewellery. This is the trick with such suits. There is no longer a need to emulate male counterparts. No more carbon-copy capers. The suit has become a standard for women to wear however they want.

Karl Lagerfeld knows this only too well, and makes the Chanel bell-bottoms see-through. In shadowy

black, they fall over funky looking high-rise flip-flops emblazoned with the house name. An idea which will no doubt be much copied on many a moonlit beach come summer. For his own-label collection he raises the waist, again exaggerating the length of the leg. Jean Paul Gaultier's waistbands are still higher, belted tightly over the bust and secured over the shoulder with mini braces. This look is only for the very young.

A spin-off of the trouser suit which takes the exposed ideal still further sees the same wide, trailing pants teamed with neat-fitting gilets which are no more than jackets without sleeves. Bareness is enhanced still further with nude tone make-up. Revlon's new Harmony Neutrals range of products for spring emphasises shades which span from golden and warm to tranquil and cool. Delicate eye shadows, Natural Sand and Coffee a Discreet Peach moisture lipstick, and a wonderful blusher called Nude. Hair should be kept as natural looking as possible, and if styled, make use of hairpieces — long dramatic switches which fall way past the shoulder. Nothing could be more feminine.

HOTLINE

Stay one step ahead

THE FIRST professional aromatherapy haircare range has been developed by Paul and Liz Edmonds, who have been practising head massage in their salon for some time. The range does not contain animal ingredients and has not been tested on animals. Shampoos and conditioners combine blends of rosemary and lavender; camomile, lemon and orange; bay, lavender and sandalwood; peppermint, sage and lavender. Aromatherapy shampoos and conditioning treatments, £2.95-£3.95, from branches of Boots, or by mail order from the Edmonds salon, 40 Beauchamp Place SW3 (071 589 5958).

Mainlining at Liberty

TO CALL Issey Miyake simply a fashion designer seems inappropriate. His development of fabric technology, and sculpting of cloth, has pushed fashion forward into a future world. This year he will design his fortieth collection since first showing in Paris 20 years ago and, from February,

Liberty will be adding his mainline collection for women to its already comprehensive stock.

The entire Issey Miyake range will comprise Woman Mainline, Men Mainline, Men Shirt, Men Coat, Windcoat and Plantation, making Liberty the only department store in the country to carry all these labels under one roof. Issey Miyake available from Liberty, Regent Street, London, W1 (071 734 1234).

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Matthew Parris



By cutting out tedious repetitions and pointless communications we could earn ourselves a holiday

Lady Thatcher, I once calculated, has spent a day of her life saying "I refer my honourable friend to the answer I gave some moments ago". This is the standard answer to the standard question ("Will the prime minister state her engagements for the day?") with which backbench MPs would begin their spats with her twice a week from 1979-90. In sum, she said it perhaps 10,000 times during waking moments in her career, not to say in her sleep.

It meant nothing, conveyed nothing. It was a formality. By dispensing with it we could have saved her a whole Tuesday. She could have had a lovely day off, ice-skating, with no net loss to history or the nation.

Of course if Lady T had actually repeated the phrase for a day, popular outcry would have ended the practice. But when the wasted breath is attenuated over one individual's whole lifetime then reform seems less urgent. And when fatuity is spread thinly over millions of people, so that each wastes only a few seconds, then the folly seems less

'Can I suggest all packets be marked with a warning: Don't Be A Plonker'

English do better, but could improve on it. Since, after the good morning, one party always gives his view of the weather and the other always replies "Yes, isn't it?", why don't we dispense with the preliminaries and, whenever we meet, proceed straight to the "Yes, isn't it?" It is no more a question than "How do you do?"

People passing each other could simply nod "Yes, isn't it?" and walk on without breaking their stride. Cut the weatherwatch.

Then there are health and safety warnings on cans and packets. Recently, Esther Rantzen called for a warning to be printed on bottles of methylated spirits to explain that if thrown straight onto an already burning barbecue fire, the flames might leap up and singe you. Taking the gentleman view, can I suggest that all packets, cans or bottles — be they of mints, cigarettes, rat poison or razor blades — be marked with a single standard statutory warning: "Don't Be A Plonker". Cut the specific warnings.

We are some way, but not all the way, towards our goal of 30 minutes saved. I have other candidates: fruit and vegetable prices on the radio, prices on the London metal exchange, spot futures for cocoa, the movement of the pound against the Deutschmark, the shipping forecast, what a spokesman for the Liberal Democrats thinks about anything you care to mention. All conversations which start with "so" or end with "then" (as in "so what are you doing with yourself these days, then?"). We are candidates galore to list. But if I stop now...

"Wind-chill factor" reports. The wind-chill factor so solemnly estimated for us by radio reporters is one of the weather industry's many

Forces that threaten the disintegration of the Church of England threaten all religious belief

The Church of England is experiencing a profound spiritual and ecclesiastical crisis. It goes far beyond the immediate issue of women priests, important as that is. The crisis has its roots in the secularisation of Western society, with the consequent loss of faith among members of the church and the loss of intellectual authority for the church itself. In part it is a national institutional crisis, like those of the royal family or Parliament. In part it involves the unwinding of the original compromise which combined Protestant and Catholic elements in a single church.

How do Roman Catholics see this crisis? In the first place, with sympathy. Every Catholic is aware that the destruction of the sacred in modern Western life is a threat to every religion, indeed to every religion. The secular and materialist assumptions which have emptied the Anglican churches and infected Anglican thought have reduced Catholic congregations and influenced Catholic thought throughout the Western world. Indeed they are also such a threat to pious Islamic families or to observant Jews as they are to Christians. The forces that threaten the disintegration of the Church of England threaten all religious belief.

In the 30 years since the Second Vatican Council, Roman Catholics have acquired a much deeper knowledge of other churches and have learnt to work much more closely with them. We recognise that the Church of England has, for the past 400 years, been the main cultural expression of Christianity in Britain. Anything which weakens the Church of England must therefore damage Christianity.

On the question of women priests Roman Catholic opinion is divided, though not in the same proportion as Anglican. Most Roman Catholics believe that the absence of scriptural or traditional authority for women priests means that women should not

be ordained. They accept the ruling of Pope John Paul II. But others feel that the question is one of justice and that in equity women's rights to a priestly vocation cannot be denied.

However, almost all Roman Catholics would agree with Dr Graham Leonard, the retired Bishop of London, that the Synod of the Church of England does not have the separate authority to decide the question without reference to other churches, including the Catholic church itself and the Eastern Orthodox churches. Those Anglicans who feel that this decision separates the Church of England further from the majority of Christendom are taking what seems to us to be the correct Catholic point of view.

If they wish to rejoin the Catholic communion, then every provision should be made for people of this view to do so, and to retain the particular spiritual characteristics which they have rightly valued in the Church of England. This will not involve the creation of a Uniat church, with its own separate ecclesiastical jurisdiction, if only because the converts are unlikely to be numerous enough to justify that. Nor is a personal prelature likely to be thought appropriate. But in church law there is canon 372, which allows groups to retain their particular character and be reunited with the Catholic church but not absorbed.

This would allow the continued use of *The Book of Common Prayer*, and it would be compatible with conditional ordination for those already in

Anglican orders. Conditional ordination is appropriate because the 1896 papal declaration that Anglican orders were invalid was based on the issue of intention. Those Anglicans who certainly do not or did not intend to be ordained as Catholic priests cannot be held to have been made Catholic priests against their will. Those Anglicans whose intention was to become priests in the full Catholic sense are in a different position.

William Rees-Mogg

Every effort will be made by Roman Catholics to find an honoured place for those members of the Church of England who regard the Anglican bishops' compromise proposals as unworkable and unsatisfactory. If members of the Church of England have come to believe that the Roman Catholic Church is the true universal church and want to join it, that is a matter for their conscience. Many will be making a personal sacrifice and all will be made welcome.

The Catholic church itself is still working out the implications of the Second Vatican Council. They are best summed up in a phrase of the great German Jesuit theologian, Karl Rahner. In 1981 he wrote in his

concern for the Church that "a basic theological interpretation of Vatican II is the church's approach to the discovery of itself as world-church (*Weltkirche*). Although John Paul II is now seen as a conservative pope, he has adopted a similar point of view. He has emphasised that "the Church of Christ is not a Western church".

Ten years ago, in January 1983, I attended the first meeting of the International Committee of the Pontifical Council for Culture in Rome. We were addressed by Pope John Paul II. "The Second Vatican Council committed the whole church to listen to modern man in order to understand him... Christ's word must appear in all its freshness to the young generations whose attitudes are sometimes so difficult to understand for the traditional-minded, but who are far from being closed to spiritual values... As Christians, we cannot keep silent and we must denounce this cultural oppression which prevents people and ethnic groups from being themselves in accordance with their profound vocation."

The Pope himself, and the church as a whole, are therefore committed to respect for the great variety of modern culture, for the culture of youth, for the culture of the poor, for the culture of the Third World. The church is certainly committed to respect for the culture of other churches, including the Church of England. Yet the Pope also said that "Experiences must not be lived in an isolated way or in an independent —

not to say adverse — fashion as regards those who live in the church in other parts of the world".

The strong argument in favour of ordaining women is that the injustices of women's position in society, both in history and now, put them among those who are oppressed, alongside the poor and ethnic groups. It becomes therefore an issue of equity to give women a right to "their profound vocation" in those cases where they feel a calling to the priesthood. Yet even this case of equity does not necessarily override all other considerations. Christians should "tolerate for the good of unity what they detest for the sake of equity", wrote St Augustine.

The church remains very suspicious of applying this central doctrine of Vatican II to women. Why is that? First, perhaps, because the women's movement itself has been led by women who represent the culture the church most mistrusts: modern, wealthy, capitalist, Western secularism. "The Church of Christ is not a Western church", but the demand for women priests is largely a Western demand. To this can be added the women's movement's general support for sexual permissiveness and abortion on demand.

The Catholic church sees the Western world as materially rich but spiritually impoverished, and tends to regard the rest of the world as materially poor but with greater spiritual resources. It looks at the cultures of Asia, Africa and South America and sees little demand — as yet — for women priests. It looks at the billion souls who belong to Islam, and sees no comparable demand there. If the rich of the world ask the church to make a very difficult innovation, and the poor of the world are not yet asking for it, the church is unlikely to oblige the rich. Yet the language of the Pope himself suggests to me that this is a door which will not necessarily remain closed for ever.

Call them unaccountable

Constitutional change cannot be long delayed, says Peter Riddell



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Whenever the average Tory MP hears the term constitutional reform he reaches for his majority. The refrain is, "We won, so everything must be all right." This dismissive approach will no longer do. In their own interests the Tories should start addressing constitutional issues.

In the past week alone, we have had vast coverage of the monarchy and the Calcutt report on the press; the restart of Commons debates on the Maastricht Bill and yesterday's rally in favour of a referendum; proposals for parliamentary oversight of the secret and security services; the memoranda by the comptroller and auditor general on civil servants and the payment of Norman Lamont's legal fees; and the cabinet split on the future of police authorities. The instinctive response of ministers is to deny that all these matters have wide-ranging constitutional implications, though they do.

The debate needs to be rescued from both the enthusiastic advocates of change and its diehard opponents. Reform has become such a fashionable cry in the centre-left that it has almost been deprived of meaning. Constitutional change tends to be treated as identical with proportional representation. The issues are not clear cut and absolute, but multifaceted and relative. It is not a question of when or if, but of now and how. The pace of constitutional change is accelerating as the period of one-party rule lengthens and as Britain becomes more intermeshed with the European Community. That is recognised in the Democratic Audit just launched by Charter 88 and the Human Rights Centre of Essex University with the backing of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable

Trust. This will attempt a *Which?* type analysis based on a checklist of 30 measures of democracy.

Unease on these issues can no longer be dismissed as solely the concern of the London-based chattering classes. Calls for change now come not only from the Liberal Democrats, but also from Labour. John Smith has made modernisation of the constitution one of his policy priorities. He has attacked over-centralisation, excessive secrecy and neglect of individual rights.

The main Tory response has come from the Fringes. Last year, both Lord Hailsham in his generally conservative *On The Constitution* and Ferdinand Mount in his more adventurous *The British Constitution Now*, accepted there was a problem of

excessive centralism. The European Policy Forum, under Graham Mather, broadly sympathetic to government aims in many areas, recently published a study, *Accountability to the Public*, arguing that a non-elected elite is taking control of many public services. Professor John Stewart of Birmingham University writes that a "new magistracy" is being created, as existed more than 100 years ago before powers over local services were transferred to elected authorities. The new unaccountable elite is found "on the boards of health authorities and hospital trusts, training and enterprise councils, the boards of governors of grant-maintained schools, the governing bodies of colleges of further education and housing action trusts".

But the government has in general been silent. John Major made much of his defence of the constitution in the April election when he stood up for the union between England and Scotland and against proportional representation. Otherwise, ministers have failed to engage either their centre-left or their Tory critics.

The main ministerial exception has been John Patten. In his 1991 Swinton lecture, he rejected the Charter 88 comprehensive approach and urged "rolling constitutional change", claiming that was what the Tories had been doing since 1979. He is planning a further salvo in a few weeks. He will argue that the

citizen's charter and the devolving of control over schools and hospitals to separate trusts represent profound constitutional changes in themselves.

That goes to the heart of the debate, the differing versions of accountability. The government defines citizens as clients and customers being guaranteed services in a market model, and as "active citizens" supporting neighbourhood watch schemes and voluntary projects. By contrast, for all John Major's belated moves towards greater openness in Whitehall, there is less emphasis on classic political rights in terms of freedom of speech and of information and pluralism in government.

Much of the frustration of the critics reflects the attitudes of mind of a government in office for nearly 14 years. Three-quarters of present ministers have never sat on the Opposition benches and, despite the storms of last autumn, many do not believe they will. That invites hubris, as shown by the pit closures debacle. It also leads to such incidents as the row over the payment of Mr Lamont's legal fees. The revealing point about the comptroller's report concerns not the Chancellor but the way the senior civil servants operated without clear rules and did not think the matter so unusual or sensitive that it should be separately reported. That does not mean they are pro-Tory; they are not. But rather, a long period of one-party rule means that officials are insufficiently sensitive to the previous checks and balances, notably the possibility that another party might be in office after the next election.

Britain is not heading towards the corruption and internal factionalism of the Liberal Democrats in Japan. Our political culture remains different. But the Tories do need to acknowledge that there are dangers — that, as Professor Stewart and others have argued, new forms of local accountability need to be created. The citizen's charter is a step forward, but it does not safeguard political rights. Fortunately, perhaps, Tory backbenchers show few signs of being cowed by a majority of 21. The government is already being constrained.

Writing to win

THERE IS not much danger of Baroness Thatcher's autobiography *The Downing Street Years 1979-1990* languishing on the bookshelves when it is published this autumn. While some of her former cabinet colleagues may have found their memoirs moving a touch slowly, Lady T is determined to jump straight into the bestseller list within days of publication.

To this end her publisher HarperCollins held a dinner at the Dorchester just before Christmas for her to meet some of the most influential booksellers in Britain. Hosted by Eddie Bell, chief executive of HarperCollins, the select gathering included John Menzies of the eponymous book chain; Terry Maher, chairman of Pinter's, which owns Dillons; and Alan Giles of Waterstone's.

Lady Thatcher gave her fellow guests a taste, at some length, of what was to come. According to one present, "humility and loyalty are not words which come to mind when she is talking about the

book". She made it clear that reports that her autobiography would be dry and discreet were less than accurate. Names will be named and beans will be split. The record will be put straight, she told the assembled table.

Reading between the lines those present at the dinner surmised that Lord Lawson would get the razor-sharp edge of her pen but that there would be plenty left for Lord Howe and John Major. "She is determined that this book will be a bestseller and she is prepared to do anything and everything possible within the bounds of the law to ensure its success," said one.

The deal with HarperCollins is said to be worth more than £3.5 million and an agreement has been signed for a series of four television programmes to be broadcast by the BBC coinciding with the book's publication. The programmes will also be sold abroad.

Having got off to a slow start, the book is now in its

final stages. A spokeswoman for HarperCollins says: "Mrs Thatcher is still working on it. It will be published in October." Party conference should be fun.

●The Stars and Stripes will be flying above University College, Oxford, on Wednesday. Professor John Albery, Univ's master, says the college has nothing special planned to celebrate the inauguration of its former student and now honorary fellow, Bill Clinton. Albery says: "It was right to celebrate on election day, but I don't think the inauguration has much to do with us."

I sure miss the old joint



DIARY

Shrinkin' Norman

OPERATION Desert Storm was not only George Bush's finest hour. It was also Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf's. But the general is not storming any more. While Bush is relishing a final encounter with the old enemy, the general, given a special knighthood by the Queen, has disappeared from public view.

This is cause of some regret for US television stations, which feel that the great man's successors do not have his charisma. Be it Iraq, Bosnia or Somalia, the expert military comment they want is Schwarzkopf's. But Schwarzkopf is having none of it. A spokesman for his publisher, Bantam, says: "He's not giving any interviews to newspapers, television or radio. He's saying nothing."

Gas attack

LORD LAWSON it was who slapped Vat on takeaway food. Norman Lamont it is who is considering slapping it on most of the things the tax at present spares. One explosive Budget option Lamont is considering is to put Vat on domestic electricity and gas. It would make the howls of protest over Vat on fish and chips look small fry by comparison.

Sir James McKinnon, director general of Ofgas, groaned at the prospect. "No new tax is ever a popular one," he said. "Anything adding to the price of gas will cause concern." Lord Howe, who as Chancellor knew all about unpopular decisions, counsels caution. "At this time of year the air is thick with tax proposals. But the point is that an old tax is the best one. Look what happened to the last new tax."

Busting up

THE MARKET for busts of Lenin may not be quite what it was a Cold war or two ago, but two fine examples are due to come under the hammer tomorrow at Sotheby's West Sussex saleroom. Somewhat curiously, the vendor is the British Communist party or, more specifically, its library.

The idea of the party sending such things to auction would have been inconceivable a few years ago, but George Matthews, the library archivist, is quick to dismiss any suggestion of revisionism. "It's not like that at all," he says. "They're not being melted down like a lot of them are in the Soviet Union. We just don't have the space here to display them properly."



Reichstag package deal

CHRISTO, the Bulgarian-born sculptor, has moved a step nearer realising a 20-year-old dream — to wrap up the Reichstag. The artist, whose previous works include the wrapping of the Pont Neuf in Paris and *The Umbrellas* (above), which involved the erection of 2,000 umbrellas in California and Japan, has won the support of the German parliament president Rita Süssmuth for his Reichstag wrap.

But there are still a few problems to be ironed out before 40 climbers can begin cladding the Berlin landmark

in a million square feet of silver fabric. Süssmuth has still to persuade MPs that their future parliament (they move there from Bonn in 1998) should be built on this indignity. Moreover, there are plans for the building to be substantially modified, a move that Christo believes would ruin the project. If these obstacles can be overcome and a \$7 million budget raised, Christo hopes the enshrouding can go ahead by August. Others believe he should delay the wrap until MPs have moved into the building — in the interests of art, of course.



PEACE IN OUR CLASSROOMS

Education needs reasoned debate, not political slanging

Had he been speaking to an audience of parents, Howard Davies, the director general of the CBI, would surely have raised a cheer when he told educationalists recently that it was time to retreat from the barricades and bring peace to Britain's schools. Education had become a battlefield, Mr Davies said, on which the children got shot. His plea was addressed to both sides in the increasingly bitter war of words between the reformers and those on the receiving end of the government's reconstruction of the education system. The fact that the speech was made from a platform traditionally reserved for the education secretary was further illustration of the gap between the two camps.

In the new year message John Patten might have given at the conference, he promised a period of stability such as Mr Davies craves, in order to implement the largely welcome changes introduced in the past five years. But there has been little sign of this stability so far. New tests for 14-year-olds have brought the threat of union boycotts reminiscent of a bygone era in industrial relations, and far-reaching proposals on primary education to be published today are assured of a hostile response. This is more a case of permanent revolution than peaceful coexistence.

What is most depressing about the current standoff is the sheer sterility of the exchanges. Charge and predictable counter-charge fly by fax between ministers and the elusive body of men and women dubbed the "education establishment". Genuine dialogue on matters of vital importance, such as testing, or the content of the curriculum, is conspicuous by its absence.

The teachers' unions plainly bear much of the responsibility for this. As their frustration has grown at losing influence over education policy, they have become ever more extreme. The point has been reached where it is hard to imagine a reconciliation with officialdom.

Yet with education authorities also marginalised and at loggerheads with government, the unions remain ministers' only point of contact with those who work in the schools. A wise politician would have cultivated the more moderate unions in order to coax out the silent majority of teachers who want the reforms to work. Belatedly, education ministers have begun to pepper their announcements with references to the high esteem in which they hold teachers, but it will take more than this to create a climate for peace.

One long-term option is explored today on our education page. Proposals for a general teaching council, akin to those charged with the maintenance of standards in other professions, have been in circulation for many years. There has been a Scottish council since 1966, and legislation for an English equivalent was drafted shortly afterwards but never put before Parliament. Now perhaps it is an idea whose time has come. Some 30 educational organisations, including the teachers' unions, are supporting a new campaign for a council. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats have given their blessing.

A general teaching council would be no panacea for the education system. Nor would ministers lightly relinquish hard-won powers over teacher training, the curriculum and the schools themselves. Agreement on the composition and remit of a new body would require compromise on both sides of Mr Davies's barricades. But the prize would be worth the risk.

Parents are heartily sick of the constant turmoil in state education. Even in a recession, those who can afford it are voting with their feet for stability and higher standards in the independent sector. Anything that could provide a forum to reopen constructive debate and make a reality of Mr Patten's promised period of consolidation deserves a try.

NOW FOR THE POLITICIANS

Italy must prove that Riina's arrest was not a flash in the pan

The government in Rome is justifiably proud of the arrest of Salvatore Riina, the head of the Sicilian Mafia. But will Riina's arrest break the collusion between the Mafia and the political establishment which has corrupted Italian democracy for decades?

Italians know that the battle against Cosa Nostra is still far from won. The spectacle of the legendary "boss of bosses" in handcuffs has helped immeasurably to restore the credibility of the Italian state, which suffered an appalling blow last summer with the assassinations of the two leading anti-Mafia investigators, Judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, together with their police escorts and Signor Falcone's wife. Authorities now hope to capitalise on their coup by arresting other suspects filmed meeting Riina before his capture and by trying to persuade the ageing Mafia patriarch to become a supergrass.

Criminologists admit, however, that all this may not be enough to prevent another gangster replacing Riina, just as he and his Corleonesi henchmen took over the empire of the mobster Luciano Liggio in the 1980s following his arrest. Amid the euphoria, magistrates in Palermo are asking why it took 22 years to arrest a man who evidently travelled freely around Sicily and made no attempt to disguise himself. Colleagues of Judges Falcone and Borsellino are deeply embittered that authorities did not act before they were killed.

The existence of collusion between the Mafia and traditional political parties dependent on Mafia-controlled votes in the past is well-known. Riina and the other members of the ruling commission of Cosa Nostra clearly received high-level protection from within the Italian establishment. Mafia boss turned state witness have identified Salvatore Lima, the Christian Democrat

politician killed in Sicily last spring, as the longstanding intermediary between the Mafia and the Rome political world. Signor Lima was a close associate of the former Christian Democrat prime minister Giulio Andreotti, who continues to defend the reputation of his friend.

Leaders of a special Italian Parliamentary committee investigating the Mafia and its links to the cockpit of politics have been talking publicly for months about hearing evidence from Signor Andreotti. Yet so far a date has not apparently been set.

The Christian Democrat Party itself has moved to break with the past by appointing a new party secretary, Mino Martinazzoli, who has a high reputation for honesty. But the rise of the devolutionist Lombardy League in the north and the corruption scandal that has tarnished the image of the Socialist Party and other mainstream political groupings in Milan mean that both the Socialists and the Christian Democrats will be more dependent than ever on southern votes in future elections. They could thus be more vulnerable to manipulation by a reorganised leadership of the Mafia.

If the political establishment is to convince Italy, and the rest of Europe, that Riina's arrest was not just a flash in the pan, the government must actively support the parliamentary anti-Mafia Commission in demanding testimony from key figures in the Christian Democrat, Socialist and other mainstream parties. The world was shocked last year by the tragic deaths of the two judges in Palermo and will applaud the arrest of Salvatore Riina, overdue though it was. But Italy must not relent in its battle against corruption and Mafia influence at all levels of society, now that the courageous sacrifices of Judges Falcone and Borsellino have finally begun to bear fruit.

VIRTUOUS VIRGIN

British Airways should face competition on more routes

British Airways resorted to foul means to try to gain a commercial advantage over Virgin Atlantic Airways. Virgin is now retaliating through fair means. Today Richard Branson, Virgin's chairman, will meet the transport secretary, John MacGregor, to discuss the transfer of 3,500 take-off slots now allocated to BA. He deserves to succeed.

BA emerged last week from its libel suit with great discredit. It was bad enough for the airline to admit that its sales team had cold-called Virgin passengers by gaining access to the Virgin computer and that false and damaging rumours had been deliberately spread about Virgin and some of Mr Branson's other businesses. Worse was that the directors of BA refused to admit any culpability for what their employees had done. Whether or not they knew what was going on, they should have taken responsibility for it. That is what being in charge of a company is all about.

Since no senior manager has resigned, it is hard to believe that BA is truly dedicated to reforming its practices. The company looks like a bully whose main regret is that he was caught. Bullies need somebody stronger than them to teach them a lesson. That is where Mr MacGregor could prove useful. Competition between airlines is by no means a free market. Up to a point, Virgin can gain commercially from passengers

deciding to fly Virgin rather than BA on routes on which the two airlines compete. But there are many routes on which competition is constrained not by the lack of demand for an alternative to British Airways, but by a shortage of supply; there are too few take-off and landing slots, especially at Heathrow Airport, where they are rationed by a byzantine industry and government cartel. Virgin flies just six routes to BA's 150. The 3,500 slots it is seeking are less than 3 per cent of BA's hoard.

Even without BA's recent conduct, there would be a good case for allowing Virgin to gain some ground on BA. The former nationalised airline still dominates the British market. Yet on routes where it competes with dynamic but much smaller companies such as Virgin or British Midland, its fares are forced down. Consumers would gain if more routes were opened up.

To this argument can now be added the force of moral suasion. Mr Branson's tactics have so far been well judged. His business has undoubtedly been harmed by BA in the past; rather than lowering himself to BA's level, he is cleverly grasping the high ground. In this venture, he deserves the support of the transport secretary. Airline-watchers used to accuse Virgin's chairman of naivety. This past week has shown that he has learned to fight back — and cleanly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Press and public react to Calcutt

From the President of the Guild of Newspaper Editors

Sir, Some while ago I sent a reporter and a photographer to interview a group of people who, while appealing to the public for funds, had built up a string of debts throughout our area. The reporter was verbally abused and the photographer assaulted while trying to interview the group on private premises. My staff did, however, get the story and pictures, which we published in our weekly paper, and a small but nasty racket came to an end.

If Sir David Calcutt's proposals on privacy and physical intrusion (report, January 13; letters, January 14, 16) had been the law at that time the group would simply have been able to ask my journalists to get off their land and, presumably, call in the police in an effort to protect themselves from exposure.

While the present debate on statutory control of the press, privacy laws and harassment centres on the great and not-so-good, let it be remembered that all newspapers — national, regional and local — carry out this type of investigation day after day in order to produce interesting newspapers and benefit the public at the same time.

It is no use defenders of Calcutt saying that these stories could still be investigated if it can be proved that they are in the public interest. In most cases you cannot prove a public interest until you have confronted a villain face to face, perhaps with a tape recorder in your pocket to help you prove your case later.

Any laws on privacy which would protect those at the top of our society would also work as a gag on other important, if less visible, parts of the press's work.

Had Calcutt's proposals been law just over a year ago my lane employee, Robert Maxwell, would not have had to jump off his yacht. He could have sat it out safely at Headington Hill Hall for a few years yet, before the long but often unwieldy arm of the law grabbed him.

Yours etc,
DAVID WILLIAMS,
President,
Guild of Newspaper Editors,
Bury Free Press,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
January 17.

From Lady Elizabeth Cavendish

Sir, I am a lay member of the Press Complaints Commission. There seem to be misunderstandings about the commission which should be straightened out. The most important of them is the suggestion that it is "dominated by the industry" (report, January 15). There are seven editors and six lay members (Sir Richard Francis's death has made a vacancy shortly to be filled) and two wise men of the press who have no daily editorial duties.

I have been on the commission since its inception and can categorically say there has never been a discussion when the press have been on one side and all the lay members on the other. This obviously does not mean that we do not sometimes have long and difficult discussions over decisions.

The suggestion that can be derived from the Calcutt report that the lay

members are somehow dominated by the newspaper profession would be a gross distortion of the truth. If I felt this was happening my resignation would be in by the next post.

Yours truly,
ELIZABETH CAVENDISH,
19 Radnor Walk, SW3,
January 17.

From Miss Audrey Wootton

Sir, Perhaps the press, such guardians of the citizens' freedom, should take on a less well resourced job and allow responsibility for criminal investigation to be privatised.

Christopher Elliott, in his account of a visit by two tabloid journalists to the house of a suspected paedophile ("The case for the offence", Modern Times, January 12), tells us that "the largest reporter put his shoulder to [the door] and heaved as he spoke into a tape recorder in his top pocket. Thanks for inviting us in, Mr...".

If this led to the rightful jailing of a criminal without anyone querying his methods then he, like other dynamic reporters, would certainly have the advantage over the dull police.

The police, fortunately, have to be very much more careful of citizens' rights.

Yours faithfully,
AUDREY WOOTTON,
16 Wilmet Drive,
Smalley, Derbyshire,
January 15.

From Mr W.S. Affleck

Sir, Your feature, "News not fit to print" (January 14), indicated that a number of editors remain dubious of the authenticity of the taped "royal" conversation. I am sure that from a technological standpoint they are right to be.

There must be a depressingly large number of people with access to the technology to intercept and record such conversations. But, perhaps more worrying, there must also be a significant number with the technical capability to create an entirely plausible imitation without reference to the supposed originals.

That the voices sounded like the real thing, and that contextual evidence lends support, only provokes the comment: "Well, what did you expect? You don't fool even an Australian editor without working at it a bit!"

Clearly an absolute judgment on authenticity is going to be very challenging. Perhaps the saddest feature of the whole episode is that an imposture which, in practice, could only be broken by the Prince of Wales "owning up" would not now be convincingly broken by any official denial from the Palace.

Yours faithfully,
W.S. AFFLECK,
Craig Alyn, Abbots Lane,
Penyffordd, Chester, Cheshire,
January 14.

From Mr Steve Race

Sir, The British press seems to think that it is more respected and better loved than the royal family. It is not.

Yours etc,
STEVE RACE,
Westcott, Martins End Lane,
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire,
January 14.

from gas-fired power stations (report, Business, January 13). Whole communities in Scotland and the north-east of England are dependent on the oil and gas industry, in the same way that some communities are dependent on the coal industry.

We are not arguing for the playing-field to be tilted in any particular direction but we are stating, with total conviction, that jobs now and in the future will be more plentiful if gas is allowed to retain its place in the energy market. The industry has enormous export earnings potential, but this will only be achieved from a strong domestic base.

Yours etc,
ALAN COCKSHAW
(Chairman, AMEC plc),
KEITH HENRY
(Chief Executive, Brown & Root Ltd),
ALLAN GORMLY
(Chief Executive,
Trafalgar House plc),
45 Great Peter Street, SW1,
January 16.

Business letters, page 34

Energy policy

From Sir Alan Cockshaw and others

Sir, Members of the Select Committee for Trade and Industry have been given as their week-end reading the draft of their report into "British Energy Policy and the Market for Coal" (report, January 16). We know that they have been assiduously meeting many of the people involved in the energy industries, and have received piles of written evidence.

However, we remain concerned that sufficient attention has not yet been paid to the employment prospects in the oil and gas industries and the supplier companies. If less gas is to be used to fire the nation's power stations then the knock-on employment effect on the engineering and construction industry will be greater than the number of jobs saved in the short term in the coal industry.

Over 300,000 people are engaged directly or indirectly in the oil and gas industry. The United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association has identified 55,000 jobs that would be at risk if there is a major shift away

Supertanker routes

From Vice-Admiral Sir Roderick Macdonald

Sir, The Shetland tanker disaster is bad enough (letters, January 9, 11, 15). However, in the Minch — a route regularly used by supertankers laden with heavy crude oil between Skye and the Outer Hebrides — the closely surrounding land means that a similar performance would result in an even greater mess, polluting much of the west coast of Scotland. I have not been alone over the last 13 years in regularly drawing the attention of successive ministers to this danger.

To transit the Minch, a tanker needs to pass within half a mile of submerged rocks. These huge ships' turning circles are three quarters of a mile or a windless day. Ferries provide crossing traffic, over which tankers have, correctly, no right of way.

The alternative route, internationally recommended for laden tankers

over 10,000 tons, is only 35 miles longer. A ministry-commissioned survey showed that this safer alternative is largely ignored and that the ships are nearly all flying foreign flags.

That this is an international waterway is the reason given for lack of action — an excuse which does not take into account that, when these laws were formulated, ships were relatively small and did not contain such cargoes. It also ignores the right of a sovereign state to protect its shores from irresponsible pollution.

As a disaster in the Minch is almost a certainty, and the minister has himself seen the consequences, he must review his policy. As things stand, tankers can get so enormous that they will need roller skates to slide over the rocks on which the government has built its absurd legal fence.

Yours faithfully,
RODERICK MACDONALD,
Ollach, Braes,
Ru Portna, Isle of Skye

Verdict on a 'King-size disaster'

From Mr R. W. Venables

Sir, Bernard Levin ("A King-size disaster", January 15) suggests that we should not contemplate the continuation in office of Lord King and Sir Colin Marshall after the disclosure in the High Court of the concerted campaign by British Airways against Richard Branson and Virgin Atlantic (report, January 12).

However, such a solution would deprive BA of the two men most responsible for the transformation of the company into one of the world's most efficient airlines, to the great benefit of the UK traveller. The resignation of these two directors would assist only the state-owned European airlines and BA's other world-wide competitors, bringing no obvious advantage to the user.

A more constructive response to this week's revelations would be for the government forthwith to introduce legislation which would act as an effective deterrent to dominant enterprises who might plan such outrageous behaviour in the future.

In aviation in particular, with the introduction of further liberalisation and the consequent reduction in the powers of the Civil Aviation Authority, there is an urgent need for adequate safeguards against anti-competitive behaviour, such as the possibility of penalties of up to 5 per cent of an airline's turnover and the right to civil damages.

So far, the law has availed Mr Branson and his airline only to the extent of the recovery of libel damages. The amount of these is minuscule in relation to BA's annual turnover and that sum is hardly likely to persuade dominant companies not to engage in unfair commercial practices.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD VENABLES,
Lane & Partners,
46-7 Bloomsbury Square, WC1.

From Mr Clive Jacobs

Sir, Bernard Levin's article excels even the high standard of journalism one associates with your columnist. Those of us who also viewed with distaste this

degrading dive into the depths of intrigue and negative business etiquette have forms of redress.

BA executives need not search their computers for my seat reservation on March 28 to Miami: it has been transferred to Virgin. I will never travel BA again, unless there is no alternative, whilst Lord King and Sir Colin Marshall are directors.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE M. JACOBS,
13 West Heath Road, NW3.

From Professor Emeritus P. G. Forrester

Sir, Congratulations on your forthright leader, "War of the skies" (January 12). One is left wondering whether Lord King and Sir Colin Marshall allow a similar freedom to their subordinate managers to disclaim responsibility for the acts of their subordinates, and if so whether it is safe to fly with an airline with such an eccentric style of management.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. FORRESTER,
Strawberry Hole Cottage,
Ewhurst Lane, Northiam,
Nr Rye, East Sussex.

From Mr David R. Larkin

Sir, According to your report today, leading counsel for British Airways assured the High Court that the directors of BA were not party to any concerted campaign against Richard Branson and Virgin.

The directors of BA would do well to turn to a law report in the same issue of your paper, "Director ought to have known", where Mr Justice Chadwick had cause to remind Ian Maxwell of the statutory provisions regulating companies which provide that "a company's business should be managed by the directors".

Your leader today is apposite in saying that those with responsibility at BA should resign.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID R. LARKIN (Solicitor),
43 Pall Mall, SW1,
January 12.

Modigliani drawings

From the Editor of The Art Newspaper

Sir, I am astonished by John Russell Taylor's capacity to divine, on the basis of the half dozen photos he may have seen ("Stunning examples of a familiar style", report, January 6), that the 441 drawings by Modigliani revealed by The Art Newspaper will not change our view of the artist, and that they "could have been salvaged from the litter bin".

In fact, this huge cache, most of which was not nearly as widely available as Mr Russell Taylor suggests, dates from the early part of the artist's career, which is obscure due to the shortage of documented works. It is therefore crucial in illuminating the steps by which Modigliani developed into the Modigliani we all know.

The drawings were bought from the artist by his doctor, confidant and first patron, Paul Alexandre, whose copious memoirs and notes will be published to coincide with the proposed exhibition at the Royal Academy. They do not belong to the exhibitor, Noël Alexandre, but to various private collectors; they are held in trust by Fonds Mercator of the Banque Paribas.

Yours etc,
ANNA SOMERS COCKS,
Editor, The Art Newspaper,
Mirre House,
44-46 Fleet Street, EC4.

Kenyan elections

From the Acting High Commissioner for Kenya

Sir, Your editorial of January 1, entitled "Against all odds", reveals an element of bias against Kanu and the government.

As all observers have stated, Kenyans patiently queued and peacefully cast their votes to choose their leaders on December 29, 1992. Local monitors, candidates' agents and observers all witnessed that there was no intimidation or ballot-stuffing.

Genuine difficulties like the late opening of polling stations that were caused by the limited resources available to the electoral commission

Funds for engineering

From Sir William Barlow, FEng, President of the Royal Academy of Engineering

Sir, Professor Wollendale, the Astronomer Royal (letter, January 8), criticises our call for new arrangements for funding engineering research.

In our submission to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for his forthcoming white paper on science and technology, we conclude that a new research council is required to bring together and strengthen the engineering research activities of the Science and Engineering Research Council and the DTI. We do not wish to separate the funding of the work of scientists and engineers. Our proposed mission statement for the new body clearly refers to "research in engineering and related technologies, supported by the appropriate science, and the transfer of developed technologies into industry".

We need to accelerate the pace of innovation. This requires more effective application of available funds for engineering research than the present system has delivered. I am afraid the Astronomer Royal's proposals will not satisfy engineers or the needs of the country.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM BARLOW (President),
Royal Academy of Engineering,
2 Little Smith Street, SW1.

should not be viewed as an attempt to thwart the popular will. It is equally wrong to suggest that the unelected Cabinet ministers were rejected because of corruption.

Many people have been surprised by the performance of Mr Matiba in the elections but I think you have overestimated his strength and popularity. The requirement that a winner of the popular vote must also get 25 per cent of the vote cast in five of the eight administrative provinces aims at preventing tribalism in a united Kenya.

Yours faithfully,
M. NGALI,
Acting High Commissioner,
Kenya High Commission,
45 Portland Place, W1.

Matter over mind

From Mr Richard Bartlett

Sir, I read the letter from Mr Cockell ("A place for Latin", January 14) with great interest. However, it was his address that was of particular note: Education and Libraries Committee.

How very sensible of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to combine the two. At Greenwich, where libraries come under "leisure services", they propose to close East Greenwich Library to save £23,000 and to spend £500,000 to open a fitness centre in another library.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BARTLETT
(Campaign co-ordinator,
Friends of East Greenwich Library),
28 Kemsing Road, SE10.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be forwarded to 071 703 2846.

OBITUARIES

BEN WARRISS

Ben Warriss, comedian and actor, died on January 14 aged 83. He was born in Sheffield on May 29, 1909.

BEN Warriss was often more like an aggressive gangster than a comedian. Yet his outrageous antics in bullying, cajoling or cheerfully tormenting his cousin and stage partner Jimmy Jewel, helped keep them at the top as a double act in the demanding world of comedy for 33 years. Forceful, nattily dressed, he had eyes that popped and bulged while he belittled his disdained. Even his prominent ears seemed to dominate the gentle-faced Jewel who patiently suffered all manner of humiliation.

Warriss was nevertheless the straight man who built the gag or comic situation. Jewel would pause, then dryly deliver the "put down" or simply with the laugh with his disbelieving "get away screamer" catchphrase. The inspired lunacy of Jewel and Warriss could make even the Goons seem logical; indeed, the pair were among the forerunners of crazy cross-talk, their partnership having been formed as early as 1934 when, in those pre-war years, they were playing most of the nation's then thriving music halls.

Typical of their material was the sketch in which Jewel enters a shop to buy a pen that is supposed to write underwater — or so he is assured by Warriss as the sleeky persuasive salesman. To prove it he has Jewel strip off and immerse himself in a tank full of water, the relentless Warriss repeatedly dunking the gulping Jewel beneath the surface barely allowing him time to breathe.

In another, they would dress up as a pair of lumberjacks and sing a song called "Timber" in which the first line was: "Timber, can't you hear us calling for timber?" A vast heap of firewood packed in boxes would then fall on their heads from the flies. The first time they tried this one, in Nottingham, the theatre manager was upset because he had just had a new maple floor laid.

The reason for their often intensely physical comedy was because they were playing in large theatres and they wanted a guaranteed visual impact. They were more production comedians, employing props and assistance rather



Warriss with his longtime partner and cousin, Jimmy Jewel in 1958

than simply from cloth funniness. However even when they went on in the war and postwar years to achieve enormous success on radio and later television, the simulated but unmistakable aggression continued unabated. In the five years that their popular radio series *Up the Pole* was running, Ben Warriss received bundles of letters from listeners demanding that he curb his bullying of Jewel.

Ben Warriss, older than his partner, was born literally in the same bed as his cousin — their mothers were sisters — in a large house in Sheffield, shared for a time by the two families. His father was a bookmaker but showbusiness seemed the destined career for the cousins. As boys they assisted Jewel's father, also Jimmy Jewel, a theatrical promoter famous in the north of England for his successful touring reviews and variety companies.

At first the two went their separate ways to learn their stagecraft. Ben Warriss played in pantos as young as 11 when he was in the 1920 production of *Babes in the Wood* on Brighton's Palace Pier. He went on to develop an

act in which he blacked up and did impressions. Both he and Jewel were experienced performers by the time they decided to team up in 1934 going on to eventual top the bill at the London Palladium and play seven Royal Command performances as well as successful summer seasons and regular pantos. Radio spots were offered. Among them such wartime shows as *Happydrome*, *Musical Hall*, and *BBC Playtime*. In 1946 they starred in the Jewel and Warriss *Showboat of the Air* which was a postwar variation of the popular variety show *Navy Mixture*. In 1947 they landed what was to be their most successful radio series *Up the Pole* which ran until 1952. It was originally set in the frozen north although later a thaw set in when the ice gags ran out. The supporting cast included a youthful Jon Pertwee as Mr Burp.

Warriss and his partner's radio popularity remained durable for years and in 1950 they took their first tentative steps into legitimate acting with *Jimmy and Ben*, a series of comedy thrillers written by Ronnie

Hanbury. In 1957 they landed yet another comedy series *The Jewel and Warriss Show*. The scripts were by Sid Green and Dick Hills who went on to write for another famous double act, Morecambe and Wise.

In spite of initial reservations that television might cramp their manic style, Jewel and Warriss crossed over successfully with their own BBC series *Turn it Up*, which topped the ratings, and later to ITV with the show *Startime*. However, by 1967 the craze for satire had taken over from the declining music hall style of comedy and Ben Warriss decided to call it a day. Jimmy Jewel agreed and, while he went on to make a new career as a straight actor, Warriss retired from showbusiness and ran a successful restaurant near Bath. Later, he found he couldn't resist the whiff of the greasypaint and made a comeback.

He chaired a *Good Old Days* variety show in Blackpool and hosted his own hour long solo routine. Like Jewel he "went legit" and continued for many years to appear in plays ranging from the Jewish caretaker in Jean-Claude Grunberg's *Dreyfus* to the lead in John Osborne's *The Entertainer*. He was still working steadily until his 82nd year when he was taken ill in his digs while appearing as the Sheriff of Nottingham in a panto at Whitechurch. He was taken to Brimsdown House, run by the Entertainment Artists' Benevolent Fund. This was fitting because Ben Warriss was a social worker for charity. He was a prominent member of the showbusiness charity, the Grand Order of Water Rats, and was its president, or King Rat, for the years 1953, 1961 and 62.

In the beginning he and Jewel were very close but inevitably because of their different lifestyles — Jewel preferred the simpler life, Warriss married three times, liked his luxuries — they drifted apart although remaining friends. Only recently Ben Warriss, the dark hair swept back, ever brilliant, now grey but the voice still booming, was recalling the old days, the peak years when the duo were the lead strip cartoon in the *Radio Punt* comic, and when they were each picking up £1500 a week touring the clubs and halls. Still bellowing, he confirmed: "We had a wonderful life."

SAMMY CAHN



Sammy Cahn, popular song lyricist who won four Academy Awards, died in Los Angeles on January 15 aged 79. He was born in New York City on June 18, 1913.

SAMMY Cahn was the despair of his good Jewish mother. The second of five children and her only son, she had him pegged to become a doctor or a lawyer. But she had made the mistake of teaching him to play the violin, and Samuel Cohen, as he was born, had other ideas about his career. After securing a record for himself he began working as a violinist in Bowery burlesque houses. There he made up ribald parodies of popular songs to accompany the striptease acts. He was just 15 years old. Between "musical engagements," the young Cahn worked as a porter, elevator operator, tinsmith, usher, and restaurant cashier. He became a proficient violinist, playing in various semi-professional bands around New York and at the "borscht belt" resorts in the Catskills Mountains.

Then, at the age of 16, he persuaded Saul Chaplin, the pianist of an orchestra in which he was playing the violin, to join him in a song-writing partnership. By the early 1930s he and Chaplin were making a modest living, providing material for singers, comedians and vaudeville acts. Bob Hope and Milton Berle were early customers.

The duo first published "Shake Your Head from Side to Side" (in 1933). This failed to earn them any royalties but they succeeded in 1935 with "Rhythm Is Our Business", composed for the bandleader Jimmie Lunceford. It became a record hit and subsequently Lunceford's signature tune.

In 1936 they wrote "Shoe Shine Boy", a hit for Louis Armstrong, which he used as a finale piece for his review at the Cotton Club. Jack Kapp, a record executive from Decca commissioned the pair to compose for Ella Fitzgerald and Andy Kirk. It was their composition, "Until the Real Thing Comes Along", which helped to establish Kirk's band. Kapp also asked for an English-language version of a Yiddish song called "Bei Mir Bist du Schone" (1937), for The Andrews Sisters. This became their first million-seller and was the premier novelty song of the year earning over \$3 million.

The team was given a contract by Warner Brothers to work at the Viaphone studios in Brooklyn. Cahn

said of Warriss that their motto was "We don't want it good — we want it by Thursday". Following the closure of Viaphone in 1940 the pair travelled to Hollywood where, eventually, they dissolved their partnership after failing to secure any further work. At this time Cahn met, and married in 1945, Gloria Delson, a former Goldwyn girl.

By this time Sammy had changed his name to Kahn, to avoid confusion with a comedian named Sammy Cohen, and then changed it again to Cahn to distinguish himself from another lyricist, Gus Kahn.

Cahn attempted to enlist in the US army following Pearl Harbour but was turned down on medical grounds (he suffered from ulcers for most of his life). Instead of going to war, Cahn formed a new partnership with Jule Styne. The team worked mainly on films, including *Romance on the High Seas* (1948) which included the memorable "It's Magic" sung by Doris Day. They also wrote "Toots of New Orleans" (1949), which gave Mario Lanza his first million-seller, "Be My Love" (written with Nicholas Brodsky). Perhaps their most famous song was "Three Coins in a Fountain". This won an Oscar for best song of 1954: Cahn claimed that it was written in under an hour. The Four Aces version became a multi-million hit, although in the film it was sung by Frank Sinatra.

Sammy Cahn had met Sinatra through the bandleader Tommy Dorsey. They had become friends immediately and the Cahn-Styne partnership began to produce a string of songs for him. These included "Saturday Night is the Loneliest Night of the Week", "I Fall in Love Too Easily", "Walk Alone" (which was nominated for an academy award) (1944), and "Five

Minutes More" (1946). Cahn and Styne frequently wrote within other teams. Cahn worked with Sammy Fain on numbers for Walt Disney's *Peter Pan*, with Sylvia Fine on Danny Kaye's *The Court Jester* and with Bronislau Kaper on *Forever Darling*.

Sammy Cahn teamed up with Jimmy Van Heusen in 1955, writing the major hit title song for Frank Sinatra's film, *The Tender Trap*. The partnership was tremendously successful and heralded a long association of producing dazzling uptempo hits. These included "Love and Marriage" (1955), "All the Way" (1957) and "High Hopes" (1959). Song classics followed, including "Come Fly With Me" (1958). For this Cahn had written the lyric about a "bar with exotic views". Sinatra changed it to "exotic booze" at the recording session.

Cahn and Heusen continued writing for the cinema throughout the 1960s, but worked together less frequently. In 1970, Cahn and his previous partner, Styne, wrote another Broadway musical, *Look to the Lilies*. In the same year Cahn remarried, Virginia Basile, a fashion consultant and former actress.

At the suggestion of Broadway producer Alexander Cohen, Cahn compiled a one-man show retrospective of his work, *Words and Music* which opened in 1974. Cohen received the Outer Circle Critics Award for Best New Talent on Broadway. Ironically this qualified him for membership of Equity for the first time. The show also ran in London (from September 1974), under the title *Sammy Cahn's Songbook*, the same year his autobiography was published: *I Should Care*.

Cahn was a natural and witty raconteur and during the early 1980s appeared regularly in television chat-shows in London. He was given a place in the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1972. Heavily maintained that his favourite recreational activity was to simply sit and type — anything at all. He was a naturally gifted writer who had a mind for comedy that might have just as easily earned him a career as a gag writer. It was this mastery of the punch-line that earned him such respect for his lyrics. The prodigious canon of lyricist Sammy Cahn produced over six decades have become woven, durably into the postwar popular psyche.

He is survived by his wife, Tina, one son and one daughter.

LORD BRUNTISFIELD

Lord Bruntisfield, MC, government whip, 1932-35, died on January 14 aged 94. He was born on June 23, 1899.

A HOLDER of the Military Cross before his 18th birthday and at one time the youngest member of the House of Commons, Lord Bruntisfield served as a whip in Stanley Baldwin's government from 1932-35. He was, until his death, probably the last surviving member of that government.

The eldest son of Vice-Admiral Sir George Warrander and Lady Maud Ashley, and Queen Victoria's godson, Victor Alexander George Anthony Warrander was educated at Eton. In 1917

his father died and he succeeded to the baronetcy.

With the outbreak of war he was sent to Russia to study Slavonic languages, and later joined the staff of the British Mission at Moscow. In 1917 he obtained a commission in the Grenadier Guards. He was too young to join his battalion until the last months of the war, but had already received the Military Cross for gallantry, and Russian and Rumanian orders for special services by the time he left for the front.

On leaving the army in 1921, he decided to take up politics. His first post was as private secretary to Sir Robert Horne, then Chancellor of the Exchequer. In 1923 he was elected to Parliament as Con-

servative member for the Grantham division of Kesteven, and Rutland, the constituency he continued to serve until his peerage and elevation to the upper house in 1942.

A popular figure in the House, the opposition used to address him, inaccurately, as "the noble lord". He was considered a snappy dresser, with a fine taste in waistcoats, but was also quickly recognised as a serious politician. An assistant whip in 1928, he held Government offices continuously from 1931, when he was appointed a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury. From 1932-35, he became one of the famous Corps of Government Whips, all tall, handsome men, under the

command of Lord Monsell, who were known to MPs as Westminster's "male beauty chorus". Always encouraging to younger talent, he engaged the services of 10-year-old local girl, one Margaret Roberts (later Thatcher), as his runner in the 1935 general election.

Like his father, Sir Victor took a great interest in naval matters and briefly held the title of Parliamentary and Financial Secretary to the Admiralty in 1935. In 1940, as part of Churchill's administration, he returned to the post and in 1942 was created a peer in order to represent the Navy and strengthen the Government's Front Bench in the Upper Chamber. He took the title Baron Bruntisfield of



Boroughmuir, after his family property near Edinburgh.

Sir Victor married Miss Dorothy Rawson in 1920. Lady Warrander, one of the tallest peeresses of her day, was a fine shot and horsewoman. Sir Victor, a keen amateur painter, enjoyed deer stalking, sailing and flying. In 1934 he won his "A" Pilot's certificate with only 11 hours' flying. Both enjoyed cycling and on holiday in Provence, with their three young sons, covered 247 miles in 10 days. Their marriage was dissolved in 1945 and in 1948 he married Miss Tania Kolin, a 23-year-old Roman Catholic from Dubrovnik. In later years he divided his time between homes in Gstaad and the Bahamas. He is survived by his second wife, three sons from his first marriage, and a son and a daughter from his second.

IN THE obituary of Sir John Pridaun (January 15) it was stated that he had been brought onto the board of the old Westminster Bank by Archibald Stirling. In fact he was "spotted" by Duncan Stirling, who went on, like Sir John, to be chairman of NatWest.

FLORENCE DESMOND

Florence Desmond, actress and impersonator, died on January 16 aged 87. She was born in Islington, London, on May 31, 1905.

BEGINNING her London career as a "Cochran young lady" for the Pavilion revue, Florence Desmond soon found her special meter in impersonation. At one period, before her first retirement, she managed to be seven people during a single play. She had an observant impressionist's method of choosing an immediately recognisable mannerism, and adding a few quick strokes to complete a portrait that usually stopped short of caricature. She was especially apt with Greta Garbo and Mae West but she developed an uncommon range of subjects.

Her real name was Florence Dawson. She appeared first when she was 11 in a pantomime. Her first Cochran revue (1925) was *On With the Dance*; she acted with Naughton Wayne in cabaret, and during 1928 she was in Cochran's *This Year of Grace*, both in its London and New York productions (on Broadway she understudied and played for Beatrice Lillie).



Soon after this she put together her own cabaret act and for some years she was a familiar figure in London revue and variety. During a 1933 broadcast which promptly became a popular recording (A *Hollywood Party*) she impersonated a group of stars as far apart as Jimmy Durante, Tallulah Bankhead and Grace Fields. James Agate wrote of her in another Cochran revue, *Streamline* (Palace, 1934): "She has not only a white-hot sense of the ridiculous but can present it in a dozen different disguises."

She was on the bill of the Royal Variety Performance of 1937, and in the following year toured in her own show *Taking Off*. During the war, when she had a long run in a Palladium revue, *Apple Sauce* (with Max Miller and Vera Lynn), she also went out to entertain the troops. She had a second Royal Variety night (October 1951); and in 1952, at the Comedy Theatre, appeared in one of her most ambitious and exacting nights, a tricky playacted *Apple of Eve*. This was set at a home for psycho-neurotics where the controller had been murdered and the audience had to choose the criminal from a roll-call of suspects. The list covered five patients (including a temperamental acrobat and a titled dipsomaniac), the murdered woman's mother, and a Cockney charwoman: all of them were Florence Desmond.

She announced her retirement in 1953. But in 1958 she returned for a single part, an amusingly historic flourish in an American play, *Auntie Mame* (Adelphi), with Beatrice Lillie whom she had understudied just 30 years earlier. Florence Desmond was married to T. Campbell Black and, after his death, to Charles Hughesdon.

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FINNS' NEW SUCCESS

UNEQUAL STRUGGLE IN THE AIR

From Our Special Correspondent

HELSINKI, Jan. 17

Although the weather is the coldest for 35 years, the Finnish ski patrols are still active and are distinguishing themselves in the Salla area, where the Russians have been driving back some 12 miles, and are still retreating, pressed by the Finnish troops. Today's communiqué states that there was patrol activity north-east of Lake Ladoga between forces of similar strength, in which the Finnish troops routed an enemy company, which lost 70 killed, two tanks, and about 100 rifles.

While the strictly military results of the Russian air raids have been comparatively small, even when attacks were made with 400 machines, the sufferings of the civilian population have been great. Although most of the houses in the provincial towns are still standing,

ON THIS DAY

January 18 1940

Finland was invaded by Russia in November 1939, and in spite of heroic resistance was compelled to surrender in March 1940.

bomb explosions have smashed thousands of windows over wide areas, so that each day more and more houses become uninhabitable in this Arctic winter with temperatures which are exceptional even for Finland.

In the village of Kytilya, where there are no military objectives, Soviet aircraft machine-gunned a funeral procession.

The size of Finland is such that it is impossible to keep the whole of it, or even the more densely populated southern and central districts, adequately

supplied with anti-aircraft guns and bomb-proof cellars; but considering that even now Finnish airmen, with rather slow machines, have been able to bring down a good number of enemy aircraft is evidence that a sufficient force of quick modern fighters is the best means of checking and ending the attacks on civilians. This need for aircraft from abroad is at present the most urgent and decisive issue, the Finns declare.

One example will show the spirit in which the nation is meeting the horrors of air warfare. In a large industrial centre, where there have been frequent air raids, the management of a certain factory asked the employees whether they would be willing to continue to work during air-raid alarms to save time and increase the output of this important factory. The men were offered an extension of their summer holidays in exchange. They answered that they agreed to work during the raids, but would not accept the reward offered them. "We are doing this," they said, "because the Russians must be beaten."

NEWS

30 cruise missiles fired at Iraq

America last night launched a second military strike against Iraq, firing Tomahawk cruise missiles at a nuclear weapons facility near Baghdad.

The Pentagon said at least 30 Tomahawks were fired from US warships in the Gulf. The strike came on the second anniversary of the start of the Gulf war and, in eerie replay, the skies over Baghdad were lit dramatically by searchlights, anti-aircraft fire and surface-to-air missiles. Pages 1, 9

Clinton sets off for the White House

William Jefferson Clinton, following his celebrated namesake, processed in triumph from Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington to begin the week of the presidential inauguration, merging historical symbolism with his populist politics. Pages 1, 10

Close to disaster

London came within minutes of disaster that could have killed dozens of revellers in Trafalgar Square on December 31 last year, police said. Pages 1, 6

Labour's union split

Fierce internal divisions over Labour's future direction intensified as leading reformers called for formal links with the unions to be broken and for unionists to be recruited as full members in their own right. Page 2

Help for dole queue

Proposals for a US workfare-style scheme to help cut the dole queues are being studied by Downing Street as ministers brace for a further large-scale rise in unemployment. Page 2

Lamont deplores

Norman Lamont, the first cabinet minister to comment on recent royal disclosures, denounced as deplorable publication of the so-called "Camilla tapes". Page 3

Karadzic interview

The West's peace plan for Bosnia could be wrecked if the UN Security Council endorses a no-fly zone over the former Yugoslav republic. Radovan Karadzic, leader of Bosnia's Serbs, told *The Times*. Page 8

Caught on film

Sicilians rejoiced over the capture of Salvatore Riina, the Mafia leader, while police examined video recordings of 200 people.

Romance is easier by telephone

In a coincidence that makes starting news out of dull statistics, BT has polled Britons on how many of us conduct romantic affairs and whisper sweet nothings by telephone. Researchers found that 67 per cent of callers believe it easy to say "I love you" on the phone and most of us admitted making and receiving romantic and intimate calls. Page 6

including at least one national politician, filmed visiting the "boss of bosses" before his arrest. Page 7

BBC under fire

Charles Wheeler, one of the BBC's most respected broadcasters, criticised the corporation live on its own airwaves over the plan for a 24-hour news radio station as the director-general, John Birt, sat listening. Page 3

Unita driven out

Unita rebels have been driven out of almost all the cities they took over shortly after the Angolan election in September. Angola has been plunged back into civil war. Page 11

Seals on the mend

Seals trapped in the Shetland oil spill are responding well to treatment at a wildlife centre, although opinions continue to vary about the long-term effects on wildlife. Page 5

Insurers complain

Insurers are complaining about the increasing number of fraudulent claims as the recession deepens and people seek a quick way to recoup losses. Page 5

Repossession count

The Leeds Permanent Building Society is the only major lender to repossess more homes in 1992 than in 1991. In a survey by *The Times* the Halifax emerged with the best record, cutting new repossession cases by 50 per cent. Page 6



Stranded desolation: a farm stands isolated yesterday above the flooded fields stretching all around it on Tayside south of Blairgowrie. The RAF was called out to help police and local rescue services in the Perth, Pitlochry and Forfar areas. Page 2

Cricket: The match referee has said

he will take strong action, possibly including the suspension of the captain, if balls are tampered with during the first one-day cricket international between India and England in Jaipur today. Page 20

Rugby union: England stay on course for their third successive grand slam after beating France 16-15 in a thrilling opening match to the five nations' championship at Twickenham. Rob Andrew tells how they won, and what must be done to make sure the side stays on track. Page 21

Golf: Mark James, of Britain, celebrated the start of the 1993 European season with his first victory for 2½ years, winning the inaugural Madeira Island Open by three strokes. Page 20

BUSINESS

\$200m sweeter: Tate & Lyle is close to winning a contract to build a \$200 million sugar refinery in Saudi Arabia which will be the largest in the Middle East. Page 36

\$360m seller: Charter Consolidated, the industrial holding company is to sell a key £360 million shareholding in Johnson Matthey, the British metals processing group. Page 36

Cheer lower: Consumer confidence in Britain fell sharply in the last three months of 1992 in spite of the lower interest rates, according to a regional survey by Gallup/BSI. Page 36

Wright at last: The Victoria and Albert Museum has handsomely found a place for its collection of designs by the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Page 29

Abbe again: A new musical tracing the rise and fall of Sweden's most successful pop export, which disbanded ten years ago, has opened in Stockholm. Page 29

Dim light: The Black Light Theatre of Prague is back in London but its work, now for children, seems to have lost its sharpness. Page 30

Hot pants: After a mixed fashion season of the droopy neo-hippie, Iain R. Webb celebrates the trouser suit. From now on, the look will be long, lean and languid. Page 13

Wise hand needed: Teachers cannot work well in thrall to the education secretary. There should be a General Teaching Council to oversee their affairs. Page 27

Flawed reform: Trouble in the government's brave new world of school inspection: the old guard are set to retain their power. Page 27

Write way: A Kent lecturer has enlisted his students to write a textbook for an ethics course. Page 27

Hot pants: After a mixed fashion season of the droopy neo-hippie, Iain R. Webb celebrates the trouser suit. From now on, the look will be long, lean and languid. Page 13

Fighting behind the lines: Women have forced the world to face the horror of the Balkans. Now, says Alice Thomson, they may never revert to accepting their old role. Page 12

Through the maze: What will new legislation on benefits due later this year mean for mothers and their babies? Jane Bidder has the answers. Page 12

Meeting of minds: "Security, direction, leadership, common purpose" all begin at this first and archetypal meeting. No wonder, faced with the harshness of actually working, we poor retards long to get back to it. Libby Purves on meetings and their pleasures. Page 12

Peace in our classrooms

John Patten has promised a period of stability in education to implement the largely welcome changes introduced in the past five years. But there has been little sign of stability so far. Page 15

Now for the politicians

If Italy's political establishment is to convince the world that Salvatore Riina's arrest was not just a flash in the pan, the government must demand testimony from key figures in the main parties. Page 15

A virtuous Virgin

BA emerged from its libel suit with great discredit. Richard Branson, Virgin's chairman, is meeting the transport secretary to discuss the transfer of 3,500 take-off slots now allocated to BA. He deserves to succeed. Page 15

William Rees-Mogg

The Catholic church sees the Western world as materially rich but spiritually impoverished, and looks at the cultures of Asia, Africa and South America and sees little demand — as yet — for women priests. Page 14

Peter Riddell

Britain is not heading towards the corruption and internal factionalism of the Liberal Democrats in Japan. But the Tories do need to acknowledge that there are dangers. Page 14

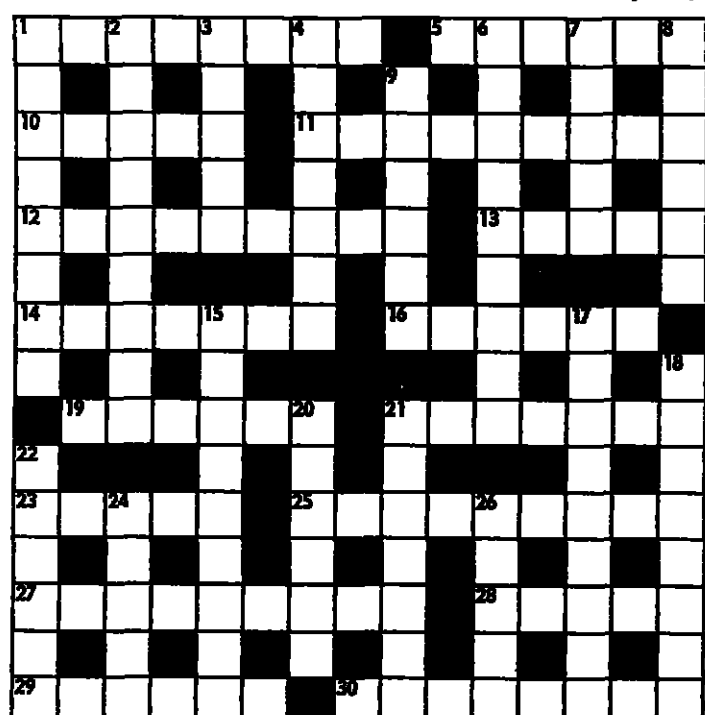
Anatole Kaletsky

The French government has been trying to defend the franc to preserve the credibility of the European ideal. But in economic policy, "credibility" is the last refuge of a scoundrel, or at least of a dangerous humbug. Page 34

"Had Calcutt's proposals been law over a year ago my late employer, Robert Maxwell, would not have needed to jump off his yacht," writes David Williams. Page 15

George Bush's policy was faulty because it always left Saddam with the initiative. Bill Clinton's could be worse if he is thinking about trying to turn Saddam into a "good guy". *The New York Times*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,130



- ACROSS
- Gave up the post without demur? (8).
 - Few in the Western world have this to reckon with (6).
 - Queue for match featuring the French (5).
 - Americans responsible for government policy (9).
 - Opened up an al fresco feast (9).
 - Some people waste a terrific lot, he scoffs (5).
 - Punting many skirts on, all red (7).
 - Appalling rotter — still (6).
 - Silver plant that's generally acceptable (6).
 - Carriage left to deteriorate (7).
 - Get an impression of sound thinking (5).
 - Certain to appear in suits for such forms of recreation (9).
- DOWN
- Woman taking voluntary retirement (9).
 - Chap gets first-class return out of excessive enthusiasm (5).
 - It's the country for Christmas (6).
 - The supporter heard ten different versions (8).
 - Critique for getting into contact (8).
 - Beginning with fish, which is quite unexpected (9).
 - Equipment for climbers? (3-2).
 - Exceptionally earnest Oriental (7).
 - The warbler plainly likes his intake to be neat (9).
 - Firm-faced — and the body's heavenly (5).
 - Guard dismissed by the railway (6).
 - Colour, having Tess (3).
 - A dock-worker appears to deserve breaks (9).
 - Arrived in order to organise regrouping (9).
 - A flighty creature makes leftists caustic (8).
 - Read up about a couple of pages, being smart (6).
 - Sort of PE dress that should be ironed (7).
 - Obliquely question a conservationist group (6).
 - Mediterranean resort right to be more discriminating (5).
 - Motorway in unspecified part of France (5).



The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,129 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	6.701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	6.702
Dorset, Wiltshire & IOW	6.703
Devon & Cornwall	6.704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	6.705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon.	6.706
Bedfordshire & Essex	6.707
Northants, Suffolk, Cambs.	6.708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	6.709
Shropshire, Hereford & Wores	6.710
Central Midlands	6.711
East Midlands	6.712
Lincoln & Humberside	6.713
Derby & Powys	6.714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	6.715
NW England	6.716
W & S Wales & Deeside	6.717
NE England	6.718
Cumbria & Lake District	6.719
SW Scotland	6.720
W Central Scotland	6.721
Edin S Fife, Lothian & Borders	6.722
E Central Scotland	6.723
Gloucestershire & E Highlands	6.724
NW Scotland	6.725
Cathness, Orkney & Shetland	6.726
N Ireland	6.727

Weatherfax is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

ROADWORK

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0388 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	6.731
C. London (within N & S Circles)	6.732
M4/M25/M26/M27	6.733
M1/M2/M3/M4/M5	6.734
M6/M7/M8/M9/M10	6.735
M11/M12/M13/M14	6.736
M15/M16/M17/M18	6.737
M19/M20/M21/M22	6.738
M23/M24/M25/M26	6.739
M27/M28/M29/M30	6.740
M31/M32/M33/M34	6.741
M35/M36/M37/M38	6.742
M39/M40/M41/M42	6.743
M43/M44/M45/M46	6.744
M47/M48/M49/M50	6.745
M51/M52/M53/M54	6.746
M55/M56/M57/M58	6.747
M59/M60/M61/M62	6.748
M63/M64/M65/M66	6.749
M67/M68/M69/M70	6.750
M71/M72/M73/M74	6.751
M75/M76/M77/M78	6.752
M79/M80/M81/M82	6.753
M83/M84/M85/M86	6.754
M87/M88/M89/M90	6.755
M91/M92/M93/M94	6.756
M95/M96/M97/M98	6.757
M99/M100/M101/M102	6.758
M103/M104/M105/M106	6.759
M107/M108/M109/M110	6.760
M111/M112/M113/M114	6.761
M115/M116/M117/M118	6.762
M119/M120/M121/M122	6.763
M123/M124/M125/M126	6.764
M127/M128/M129/M130	6.765
M131/M132/M133/M134	6.766
M135/M136/M137/M138	6.767
M139/M140/M141/M142	6.768
M143/M144/M145/M146	6.769
M147/M148/M149/M150	6.770
M151/M152/M153/M154	6.771
M155/M156/M157/M158	6.772
M159/M160/M161/M162	6.773
M163/M164/M165/M166	6.774
M167/M168/M169/M170	6.775
M171/M172/M173/M174	6.776
M175/M176/M177/M178	6.777
M179/M180/M181/M182	6.778
M183/M184/M185/M186	6.779
M187/M188/M189/M190	6.780
M191/M192/M193/M194	6.781
M195/M196/M197/M198	6.782
M199/M200/M201/M202	6.783
M203/M204/M205/M206	6.784
M207/M208/M209/M210	6.785
M211/M212/M213/M214	6.786
M215/M216/M217/M218	6.787
M219/M220/M221/M222	6.788
M223/M224/M225/M226	6.789
M227/M228/M229/M230	6.790
M231/M232/M233/M234	6.791
M235/M236/M237/M238	6.792
M239/M240/M241/M242	6.793
M243/M244/M245/M246	6.794
M247/M248/M249/M250	6.795
M251/M252/M253/M254	6.796
M255/M256/M257/M258	6.797
M259/M260/M261/M262	6.798
M263/M264/M265/M266	6.799
M267/M268/M269/M270	6.800
M271/M272/M273/M274	6.801
M275/M276/M277/M278	6.802
M279/M280/M281/M282	6.803
M283/M284/M285/M286	6.804
M287/M288/M289/M290	6.805
M291/M292/M293/M294	6.806
M295/M296/M297/M298	6.807
M299/M300/M301/M302	6.808
M303/M304/M305/M306	6.809
M307/M308/M309/M310	6.810
M311/M312/M313/M314	6.811
M315/M316/M317/M318	6.812
M319/M320/M321/M322	6.813
M323/M324/M325/M326	6.814
M327/M328/M329/M330	6.815
M331/M332/M333/M334	6.816
M335/M336/M337/M338	6.817
M339/M340/M341/M342	6.818
M343/M344/M345/M346	6.819
M347/M348/M349/M350	6.820
M351/M352/M353/M354	6.821
M355/M356/M357/M358	6.822
M359/M360/M361/M362	6.823
M363/M364/M365/M366	6.824
M367/M368/M369/M370	6.825
M371/M372/M373/M374	6.826
M375/M376/M377/M378	6.827
M379/M380/M381/M382	6.828
M383/M384/M385/M386	6.829
M387/M388/M389/M390	6.830
M391/M392/M393/M394	6.831
M395/M396/M397/M398	6.832
M399/M400/M401/M402	6.833
M403/M404/M405/M406	6.834
M407/M408/M409/M410	6.835
M411/M412/M413/M414	6.836
M415/M416/M417/M418	6.837
M419/M420/M421/M422	6.838
M423/M424/M425/M426	6.839
M427/M428/M429/M430	6.840
M431/M432/M433/M434	6.841
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M467/M468/M469/M470	6.850
M471/M472/M473/M474	6.851
M475/M476/M477/M478	6.852
M479/M480/M481/M482	6.853
M483/M484/M485/M486	6.854
M487/M488/M489/M490	6.855
M491/M492/M493/M494	6.856
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M499/M500/M501/M502	6.858
M503/M504/M505/M506	6.859
M507/M508/M509/M510	6.860
M511/M512/M513/M514	6.861
M515/M516/M517/M518	6.862
M519/M520/M521/M522	6.863
M523/M524/M525/M526	6.864
M527/M528/M529/M530	6.865
M531/M532/M533/M534	6.866
M535/M536/M537/M538	6.867
M539/M540/M541/M542	6.868
M543/M544/M545/M546	6.869
M547/M548/M549/M550	6.870
M551/M552/M553/M554	6.871
M555/M556/M557/M558	6.872
M559/M560/M561/M562	6.873
M563/M564/M565/M566	6.874
M567/M568/M569/M570	6.875
M571/M572/M573/M574	6.876
M575/M576/M577/M578	6.877
M579/M580/M581/M582	6.878
M583/M584/M585/M586	6.879
M587/M588/M589/M590	6.880
M591/M592/M593/M594	6.881
M595/M596/M597/M598	6.882
M599/M600/M601/M602	6.883
M603/M604/M605/M606	6.884
M607/M608/M609/M610	6.885
M611/M612/M613/M614	6.886
M615/M616/M617/M618	6.887
M619/M620/M621/M622	6.888
M623/M624/M625/M626	6.889
M627/M628/M629/M630	6.890
M631/M632/M633/M634	6.891
M635/M636/M637/M638	6.892
M639/M640/M641/M642	6.893
M643/M644/M645/M646	6.894
M647/M648/M649/M650	6.895
M651/M652/M653/M654	6.896
M655/M656/M657/M658	6.897
M659/M660/M661/M662	6.898
M663/M664/M665/M666	6.899
M667/M668/M669/M670	6.900
M671/M672/M673/M674	6.901
M675/M676/M677/M678	6.902
M679/M680/M681/M682	6.903
M683/M684/M685/M686	6.904
M687/M688/M689/M690	6.905
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JANUARY 18 1993

TV LISTINGS

My programme...
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OPINION

Peace in our classroom
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Now for the politicians

A virtuous Virgin
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COLUMNS

William Rees-Mogg

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Peter Riddell

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Andrzej Kozlowski

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LETTERS

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FOOTBALL 24

Why Liverpool should keep faith in Souness



ARTS 29-31

Abba come back as a stage musical



BUSINESS 33-36

Heseltine sees Saudi Arabia as a land of opportunity

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THE TIMES

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MONDAY JANUARY 18 1993

Rout of Middlesbrough emphasises Premier League championship credentials of Ron Atkinson's team



Getting down to business: Parker, of Aston Villa, and Pears, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, slide into confrontation at Villa Park yesterday

Triumphant Villa surge to the top

Aston Villa 5
Middlesbrough 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IN A season overflowing with self-delusion and self-destruction, Aston Villa have emerged as the only realistic challengers to Manchester United for the Premier League title. Villa went to the top of the table for the first time at Villa Park yesterday with a performance that oozed class and was almost breathtaking in its finality.

Leeds United, the champions, never got started and Norwich City, the long-time leaders, have lost their way. Arsenal, Blackburn Rovers, Chelsea and Ipswich Town have all flattered to deceive. But Villa are moving into prime form, their serene progress of only two defeats in 18 league matches suggesting that a first championship success for 12 years is beckoning. Such is the nature of the Premier League beast that only Villa and United now seem able to put together any sort of successful sequence. United could replace Villa at the head of affairs if they beat Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road tonight, but the memory of their collapse when

in pole position last season may return to haunt them.

It was a 4-1 victory by Rangers at Old Trafford on new year's day that began to undermine United's challenge, then, and tonight they may be without Eric Cantona, who has inspired their recent good run, through injury.

If United watched Villa's televised and ruthless destruction of Middlesbrough yesterday, they are possibly quaking already. It was done, too, without Dalian Atkinson, Villa's leading scorer, and Daley, their England winger. And they enjoyed it.

"It was as though we were playing in a five-a-side training session with complete freedom and no pressure," Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, said. "We enjoyed it and looked as though we were enjoying it, which is how it should be. Maybe we should have scored more goals, maybe we should have paralysed them, but I was still pleased. If we can maintain that standard, I'm sure we can stay in any title race."

Strangely, Villa's early attitude was poor. Too jittery by far, and too keen to belt the ball forward aimlessly, they allowed Middlesbrough the luxury of a promising start. Wright floated over a corner

and Wilkinson, timing his jump to perfection, planted a crisp header past Spink. At first glance, it appeared to be trickling just inside the far post; at second, it seemed to be drifting narrowly wide. The latter proved the more accurate, and even Hendrie's huge miss was unable to alter its true course towards the advertising hoarding.

It was a limited Middlesbrough incursion and, with a sense of relief and renewed urgency, Villa provided swift and irresistible evidence of their right to stare down on the clubs below them.

Yorkie's blatant miss from a few yards out served only as a prelude to a scintillating half-hour. Villa scored three times, could have had five, and went in at half-time with the air of a team on the verge of something special.

Stanton, at last finding his range, broke the deadlock in the 25th minute by picking out Parker deep inside the area. Parker cut inside Whyte to give himself even more room in which to manoeuvre and, although his shot deflected off Whyte, it still had enough venom in it to fly past Gittens and Phillips on the line. With Parker and Houghton weaving pretty patterns from touchline to touch-

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aston Villa	24	12	8	4	39	28	44
Manchester United	24	12	8	4	38	28	42
Blackburn Rovers	24	11	9	4	34	18	41
Sheff Wed	24	11	8	5	35	20	41
Leeds United	24	10	12	4	32	38	36
QPR	22	10	5	7	31	25	35
Arsenal	24	10	6	8	25	23	35
Chelsea	24	9	8	7	30	29	35
Man City	24	9	8	7	34	27	33
Sheff Wed	24	8	9	7	30	29	33
Coventry	24	8	9	7	34	34	33
Swindon	24	8	9	7	25	30	29
Leeds Utd	24	7	10	35	40	28	28
Southampton	24	6	9	24	26	27	27
QPR	24	6	9	9	34	27	27
Coventry	24	6	9	9	29	26	27
Leeds Utd	24	6	9	9	29	25	25
Sheff Utd	24	6	9	10	28	24	24
Wimbledon	24	6	9	10	35	41	24
Oldham	22	6	8	10	35	41	24
Notm Forest	23	5	6	12	24	31	21

line, and with Saunders's diagonal runs making him increasingly difficult to mark, Villa poured forward. Six minutes later, after Gittens had saved Middlesbrough with a marvellous tackle on Saunders, McGrath made it 2-0.

Pears was always favourite for Froggatt's cross but McGrath arrived at exactly the right time to nod the ball from the goalkeeper's grasp at the moment he caught it. The Villa captain then responded the quickest by hooking the loose ball into the roof of the net.

It was a decisive blow for those often angered by the over-protection of goalkeepers. Many officials would have ruled in favour of Pears but the referee, was both sympathetic and realistic.

Two minutes from half-time, Villa capped a memorable spell when Saunders brushed aside Gittens — and suspicions of handball — to blast his shot against the crossbar. Yorkie made amends for his earlier error by diving to head into the empty net.

Villa continued almost to mock Middlesbrough in the second half, carving huge holes in their already exposed and embarrassed defence with style and grace. Saunders sauntered through for the fourth goal — his twelfth of the season — after Gittens had misdirected his header, and even Teale, not noted for his prowess in opposing penalty areas, managed to get in on the act. Stanton's cross fell invitingly, and Teale dispatched it with a firm left-foot volley.

Saunders looped a header onto the bar and Hignett scored a consolation for Middlesbrough — and was also twice denied by fine saves from Spink — in a fitting finale to an enthralling spectacle.

Directors are asked to explain their remarks

DIRECTORS of three of Scotland's leading football clubs face charges of bringing the game into disrepute. David Murray, of Rangers, Ian Donald, the Aberdeen vice-chairman, and Jim Oliver, of Partick Thistle, will be asked by the Scottish Football Association (SFA) to explain their comments about Celtic.

Celtic were criticised for supporting the Scottish League's proposed reconstruction by the clubs preferring a breakaway super league. The SFA has received a complaint — almost certainly from Celtic — on the subject.

The three directors will be asked to explain their comments and could be fined. Oliver referred to Celtic's "breathtaking deception" while Donald commented that the Parkhead club had "lost all credibility". Donald also said: "We have been stabbed in the back. If this is how Celtic conduct their business then they deserve all the criticism they get." Murray observed: "For the first time since I took over at Ibrox I have been given cause to question the stewardship of Celtic."

Foreman's target

George Foreman, 44, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, wants to meet Lennox Lewis or Riddick Bowe after beating Pierre Coetzee, of South Africa, in Reno on Saturday. Foreman stopped Coetzee in eight rounds.

Can you solve this puzzle as fast as Einstein?

7	6	7	
3		6	2
	6	4	4
	4	3	3
3	4	4	1

Each line of five numbers must total 25. Place a number into each empty square in order to complete the grid. If you can complete this without using a calculator fill in the coupon below.

Complete this coupon and post to Mensa, FREEPOST, Wolverhampton, WV2 1BR.

Name _____

Address _____

P.Code _____

Mensa
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Beaten French welcome 'new era of friendship'

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE French rugby team returned to Paris yesterday with English plaudits in their ears and reconciliation in their hearts: despite a one-point defeat in their opening five nations' championship match with England at Twickenham on Saturday, the polemics of the past weeks and the sour taste of last season's encounter in France, when two French forwards were sent off, were erased.

"I think the past is forgotten," Jean-François Tordo, their captain, said. "I think we have entered a new era of friendship between the teams."

Swansea consider appeal

SWANSEA are considering an appeal to the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) on behalf of Garin Jenkins, their Welsh international hooker, who faces a 16-week suspension after being sent off for stamping against Llanelli on Friday. A 16-week ban would mean him missing the five nations' championship. Mike Rud-dock, the Swansea coach, said: "Garin was transferred from Mountain Ash to the Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr, on Saturday, for observa-

tion as a result of a knock he sustained just seconds before the sending-off. We think he has concussion. If that is the case, and he says he can't remember anything of the game, then we might have a case."

If the WRU's disciplinary committee decides to reprimand Jenkins, he would still miss Wales's opening match, against England on February 6, under the three-week ruling for players suffering head injuries.

while, Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, said: "Given that sort of start they are likely to win their next three games." France play Scotland, who opened with a 15-3 win over Ireland at Murrayfield, on February 6 in Paris, while England's next match is with Wales on the same day.

Both England and France hope to announce their teams on January 31, and the French are optimistic that Philippe Sella will have recovered from the blow in the face which forced him off at Twickenham. However, Pierre Berbizier, the France coach, referred to his team's "race against time" in their attempts to recover the glories of the 1980s.

The race is to compose a French team capable of an effective challenge in the World Cup in 1995, but also for Berbizier himself: if he is to remain in his present post, his players must win their remaining games and hope England slip up in their pursuit of a third consecutive grand slam. On Saturday, that looked some distance away.

Match report, page 21
David Miller, page 21



Captain's example: Carling, of England, tackles Cabannes on Saturday

Gooch welcomes Gatting back into England fold

24
HOURS

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fit

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Ivanisevic's injury leaves Open short of showmen

ons, Sweden, yesterday after their leader of the day before, Chen Xinhua, went down with flu and was unable to take any further part in the European Nations Cup in Karlsruhe. Sweden went on to beat the holders, Germany, 3-1 in the final.

Chen, the national champion, had won twice in the 3-2 victory over Austria on Saturday that had ensured England qualified from their group and he also rescued his adopted country from within two

Lunn triumphs after play-off

Golf: Karen Lunn, of Australia, beat Sandrine Mendiburu, of France, at the second play-off hole to win the KRP World Classic in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Both had finished on 236, two under par.

□ The women's European tour has filled one of the optional weeks on its schedule with the Ford Classic, which will take place at Woburn for

the twelfth successive year from April 29 to May 2. Prize money will be increased to £70,000.

Swinton through

Bowls: Swinton, a two-rink club with only 106 members, became the first Lancashire team to qualify for the quarter-finals of the Haven-Commercial Union Inter-Club championship when they beat South Tyneside 99-61 on Saturday.

Hendry holds on

Snooker: Stephen Hendry

Crippled craft makes port

ain's triple Olympic gold medal-winner, has threatened to quit unless he can find a sponsor in the next two months. Redgrave had hoped to continue in the sport until Atlanta in 1996.

Motor rallying: Bruno Saby of France, driving Mitsubishi, won the Paris to Dakar rally yesterday. Stephane Peterhansel, of France, riding a Yamaha, won his third consecutive Paris Dakar motorcycle title.

Athletics: Ben Johnson finished third in a 50-metre race at the Hamilton Indoor Games in Ontario.

Redgrave threat

Rowing: Steve Redgrave, Britain's triple Olympic gold medal-winner, has threatened to quit unless he can find a sponsor in the next two months. Redgrave had hoped to continue in the sport until Atlanta in 1996.

Saby first

Motor rallying: Bruno Saby of France, driving a Mitsubishi, won the Paris to Dakar rally yesterday. Stephane Peterhansel, of France, riding a Yamaha, won his third consecutive Paris to Dakar motorcycle title.

Amateur: Ben Johnson finished third in a 50-metre race at the Hamilton Indoor Games in Ontario.

names first: J Pearson lost to J Rosskopf
12-01-01 15-10-01: J Wiltshire to J Rosskopf

TENNIS

SYDNEY: New South Wales Open: Men's Singles First Round: S. Parore (NZ) vs T. Maud (Aus), 7-6, 6-1; Doubles: First R. J. Stollmeyer & J. Stoltenberg (Aus) vs L. Johnson & M. Jensen (US), 6-3, 6-2.

MELBOURNE: Singles: Semi-final: A. Huger (Ger) vs P. Richter (Aust), 6-4, 6-2; Q. Givonne (Aus) vs Sabatini (Arg), 6-4, 6-2. Final: Richter vs Sabatini (Arg), 6-4, 6-2. Doubles: Final: P. Richter (Aust) & E. Smithe (Aus) vs L. Mickel (US) & R. Stubbs (Aus), 6-3, 6-1.

ADELAIDE: Exhibition tournament: Final: J. Courier (US) vs P. Morde (Can), 1-6, 9-8, 6-3. Doubles: Final: J. Courier (US) & B. Woodbridge (Aus) vs L. Mickel (US) & R. Stubbs (Aus), 6-2, 6-1.

JAKARTA: Indonesian Open: Final: K. Chang (US) vs C. Smith (Ger), 2-6, 6-2, 6-1.

AUCKLAND: New Zealand Open: Singles: A. Volford (Cze) vs J. Ziegen (Ger), 6-3, 6-0. Doubles: Final: A. Volford (Cze) & P. Morde (Can) vs P. Richter (Aust) & R. Stubbs (Aus), 6-4, 6-2.

FOOTBALL I

Premier League
QPR v Man Utd (7.45, all tickets)
Autoglass Trophy
Second round
Brighton v Walsall (7.45)
Vauxhall FA Trophy
First round
Wexham v Barnet (7.45)
First round
Second replay
Wilton v Macclesfield (7.30)

TENNIS'S SCOTCH Cryo: Third round-replay; Postscript: Cypriot beat Aldie.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chesham vs Wottonville (7/30). Cryo: 1-0 (7/30). Southern division: Havant vs Farnham.

DIABLO LEAGUE: First division: Cryo vs Abingdon Town, Purfleet vs Wembley.

100 LBS FLYING FIGHT: First division cup: Compton vs Farnham.

NEVILLE OVENBEN COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City vs Oxford United (7/30); Millwall vs Portsmouth (2/00). South division: Walsley vs Farnham (7/30); West Ham vs Crystal Palace (7/30).

FA YOUTH CUP: Third-round replays: Bradford City vs Liverpool (at Harrow); Farnham vs Luton.

FA VASE: Fourth-round replay: Palace vs Walsley at Aldershot.

JEWSON-WESSLEY LEAGUE: First division: Farnham vs Havant.

GREAT HILL LEAGUE: Les Phillips Cup: 4th-round replay vs Saltspring.

OTHER SPORT

SQUASH: National championships (Chesham).

Athletics: Ben Johnson finished third in a 50-metre race at the Hamilton Indoor Games in Ontario.

SQUASH: National championships
(Chadler)

Brompton Road's trek to pay

BROMPTON Road, from Richard Lee's base near Presteigne in Herefordshire, can justify the long trip to Carlisle today by winning the Haydon Handicap Chase.

A decent long-distance hurdler in 1989-90, when he was trained by Dudley Moffatt, Brompton Road has not been the easiest of horses to train.

This made his successful chasing debut on today's track last March all the more remarkable.

Instead of choosing a novice chase, Lee pitched him in to a handicap at his first attempt, which Brompton Road proceeded to win, landing a gamble from 10-1 down to 5-1 in the process.

The season, Brompton Road has been seen out twice. After disappointing behind

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Buddington on his debut at Newton Abbot, he topped next time at Bangor where he turned a similar race into a procession, winning by 25 lengths.

He is likely to prove hard to catch because he clearly relishes a slog through mud. And the conditions on the Cumbrian track today will be testing. Formula One has 32 lengths to make up on Brompton Road on that Bangor form and only a 12lb concession with which to do it. Boreen Owen, the winner of the corresponding race last year, was a faller last time out at

Kelso after winning two moderate races at Sedgefield.

Today's meeting can begin with Fiskin winning the EBF Hadrian's Wall Novices' Chase.

A winner first time out over fences at Ayr, Michael Hammond's mare subsequently won in the lead and going like a winner at Hedham when she fell two fences from home. She was remounted to finish second.

Hammond has understandably opted for the first race as she would have been receiving 5lb from Rejoins had he run. In the Lanercost Handicap Chase she was set to give 13lb to Rejoins, who won a novice chase at Leicester last Tuesday by 15 lengths.

At Fontwell, the Tim Thompson-trained Santorius is

taken to pick up the winning thread again by landing the Peter Duncan Memorial Challenge Trophy.

Santorius finished a creditable third behind those top-class novices, Sybillin and Dawson City, at Newcastle before he was fifth in the race won by Wonder Man at Kempton. Today's race represents a big drop in class.

My nap though is Lunabelle to win the Hoechst Panacur EBF Mares National Hunt Novices' Hurdle.

Following a promising first run in the race won by the useful Sun Surfer at Wincanton in the autumn, Lunabelle returned to the Somerset track on Boxing day to record her first victory in the royal colours with Jimmy Frost in the saddle.

Champion Alner has fine start to season

POINT-TO-POINT
BY BRIAN BEELE

ROBERT Alner, the champion rider, made an impressive start to the new season by winning on both his rides at the Waverley Harriers point-to-point at Higham on Saturday.

In a top-class open, which included hunter chase winners, Some Obligation, Fifth Attempt and Spartan Spirit, Brucio, unbeaten last year, was installed as favourite.

None of these, however, posed any problem to Alner's Seven Of Diamonds, who made virtually all before drawing clear four fences out to win easily from the Chris Beatty-ridden Fifth Attempt.

Alner completed his double on Hasty Salvo in the second division of the intermediate. The tactics employed here were different, the 6-4 favourite being held up until after five out where he was ridden out to beat Alcoholic Haze (G Chow) by ten lengths.

In this race, cross words had been exchanged on the floor after the fifth fence between Nigel Bloom and Bernard Hefferman. Bloom led into the fence on Golden Shoon, tracked closely by Hefferman's Alf Marhaba.

Both came to grief with each other. Successful in his four races in 1991, Falside subsequently disappointed in his five outings last year.

A better season looks to be in prospect as Tim McCarthy conjured up a strong finish on him in the first division of the intermediate to get within a length of the winner, Starlap, who was ridden by Chris Gordon.

The lead in the ladies' race alternated between Mountain Crash (G Chow) and Royal Approval (D Stanhope), Mountain Crash eventually coming off best.

Saturday's results

Waverley Harriers (Plymouth): Hunt: 1. Christopher (Chris) C. Crossley, 1-2; 2. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-3; 3. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-4; 4. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-5; 5. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-6; 6. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-7; 7. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-8; 8. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-9; 9. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-10; 10. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-11; 11. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-12; 12. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-13; 13. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-14; 14. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-15; 15. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-16; 16. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-17; 17. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-18; 18. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-19; 19. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-20; 20. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-21; 21. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-22; 22. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-23; 23. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-24; 24. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-25; 25. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-26; 26. Larkspur (G. C. Crossley), 1-27; 27. 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Liverpool fail to find hope in the heart of defence

LIVERPOOL have learned to cope with triumph, having lived with it on the grandest scale for more than two decades. They demonstrated, in the aftermath of Haysel and especially Hillsborough, that they can also handle tragedy. Now they face a new experience, a crisis of confidence.

England's flagship in Europe for so long is visibly sinking and, as the skipper, Graeme Souness must accept responsibility. His managerial position is expected to be reviewed this week and the board will surely conclude that, apart from winning last season's FA Cup, his 21 months have been less than distinguished.

Souness is thought to be supported by the chairman, David Moores. Besides, the club, in its unprecedented state of confusion, hardly requires further disruption. The officials, the coaching staff and the players need instead to hold their nerve. Otherwise, Liverpool might even founder on the rocks of relegation.

Inconceivable? They are only five points away from danger now and are plainly unable to protect themselves from drifting closer still. Souness cannot be certain that his side's position will not worsen, as has been the case during the last few weeks, before eventually it improves.

The doubt is based on the defence. The traditional strength of Liverpool has become its weakness. With a variety of goalkeepers, they have conceded more goals than all but Oldham Athletic, Leeds United and, after yesterday, Middlesbrough. They have lost more games than all but Everton and Nottingham Forest.

They have been kept afloat by the fourth most productive attack in the Premier League but there is always the nagging suspicion among the forwards that all of their work might be in vain. The 2-0 loss to Wimbledon at Selhurst Park on Saturday provided a graphic example of the imbalance.

"We never saw the ball for the



After a 2-0 defeat away to Wimbledon, Stuart Jones, football correspondent, puts a case for Graeme Souness staying at Anfield to lead the salvage operation

first 25 minutes," Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, said. "Liverpool were exceptional. They passed us to death." Once Piechnik had clumsily conceded a penalty by baulking Cotterill, the Merseyside club capitulated so swiftly, and so completely, that all of their early promise soon became a distant memory.

Souness's reaction was more considered than after the 2-0 FA Cup defeat by Bolton Wanderers at Anfield in midweek. Then, he pointed an accusatory finger at some of his avaricious players, a public criticism scarcely designed to promote harmony within the camp. On Saturday evening, he chose wisely not to utter a single word.

The manager cannot be blamed for the injuries which have continually disturbed his plans. Not once this season, for example, has he been able to pick an unchanged line-up. His moves in the transfer market, though, are open to question. Of his acquisitions, Jones alone has been a positive success.

Since Kenny Dalglish's senior representatives were growing old together, a thorough transformation was inevitable and a decline likely, particularly as one of the principles on which the Anfield legend was built has been altered. Whereas new players once spent a year or two in the reserves, they are nowadays habitually introduced into the first team without hesitation.

Youngsters such as Marsh, McManaman, Hutchinson and Redknapp, all of whom were bought by Dalglish, have had to graduate ahead of schedule. They are blossoming and Redknapp, who is still only 19, was their most prominent figure against Wimbledon. He initiated the moves which finished with Hutchinson and Barnes missing clear openings.

The more experienced arrivals have struggled, none more so than the two Scandinavians. Piechnik is unrecognisable from the assured marker who helped Denmark to win last summer's European championship and Bjornebye has yet to finish on a winning side since he was signed from Rosenborg two months ago.

Their discomfort is predictable since, in spite of their ability, they are accustomed to a different defensive system. Bjornebye, forced to move over from his natural left-back role to replace the injured Piechnik, who limped off before the interval, had never before partnered Wright. It showed. The back four was subsequently totally inefficient.

The pair were not wholly responsible for the collective disorganisation. There was nobody patrolling in front of them. Hansen and Lawrenson, for instance, were invariably protected by the likes of Souness himself and, later in their careers, by McMahon. Without a fit Whelan, they have nobody capable of fulfilling the duty.

Maybe an era has ended, maybe their time has passed, but it will come back

"Once we got our noses in front, we put them to the test," Kinnear said. "You could question them when they went behind, particularly their central defenders. They are not the same as of old. There are a lot of new faces but Graeme will get it right."

The vote of confidence was echoed by Fashanu, who converted the penalty. Playing with a heavily bandaged hand to protect two bones broken by Keown's boot in midweek, he regularly dismantled a defence with a partner who might no longer be employed by Wimbledon.

Cotterill, the scorer of the second goal, would recently have been sold if the second division club, Brighton, where he was on loan, could have afforded the fee of £300,000. Their strikes were almost matched by Sanchez, who headed against the bar.

"Maybe an era has ended," Fashanu said after Wimbledon's fifth victory of the season. "Maybe, for a moment, their time has passed but it will come back. There hasn't been stability. They have been experimenting, swapping, moving, changing and hustling and things aren't going the way Souness would like."

"You could see one or two players weren't as happy as they usually are. You would expect that from a team which has lost a few matches but they all worked hard. It was just that things weren't coming off for them."

"Everybody is looking to jump on them because they represent the establishment in football. They have been the yardstick. They have set precedence and they have been the governors."

Such words, though justified, will be of little comfort to Souness as he reflects on a season which is sure to be empty.

WIMBLEDON: H. Siggers, R. Joseph, G. Ekins, S. Cotterill, J. Sanchez, D. Blackwell, N. Andrieu, R. Egan, J. Fashanu (sub: D. Holdsworth), L. Sanchez, A. Clarke (sub: S. Taylor).
LIVERPOOL: D. Jones, M. Marsh, R. Jones, P. Sweeney, T. Piechnik (sub: S. Harrison), M. Wright, M. Walters (sub: R. Forsyth), J. Redknapp, D. Hutchinson, J. Barnes, S. Bjornebye, D. Hansen, R. Dalglish.



Defeat's down side: Souness, flanked by Phil Boersma, left, and Kinnear at Selhurst Park on Saturday

Gunns are drawn and not a bullet fired

Norwich City 1
Coventry City 1

By KERR PICE

THE water was getting hotter with each outburst, but Bobby Gould waded on regardless. The Great Red Card Debate was in full flow at Carrow Road, and the Coventry manager was not about to let his momentum dry up, an inevitable FA dispute charge notwithstanding.

Gould's invective, directed at the Sussex referee, Alan Gunn, and prompted by the latest example of the lack of consistency among Premier League officials, may be viewed as such, but, for once, sympathy on Saturday lay with the visiting camp.

It was all so unexpected. An otherwise routine game was meandering along when, ten minutes into the second half and with the home side ahead, Mark Bowen, the Norwich left back, deposited an intended back-pass woefully short of his goalkeeper, Bryan Gunn.

John Williams, Coventry's winger, raced into the area, Gunn raced out, and as Williams clipped the ball past him to Quinn, who sidefooted into an empty net, Gunn clattered into Williams and sent him spinning to the ground.

Gunn B, unquestionably, should have gone: Gunn A, after what seemed like an

eternity, inexplicably decided otherwise, with not so much as an exchange of names. And having disregarded FIFA's directive on the so-called professional foul, Gunn A compounded the mistake by disallowing Quinn's effort and ordering a penalty. Borrow's miss — Gunn B parried and Quinn whacked the rebound against the bar — was almost inevitable.

Cue Gould, and a heartfelt outburst that will not do him any favours. He had been banished from the same touchline three days earlier for remonstrating with a linesman during an FA Cup tie, which Coventry lost, and here he was again. But it needed to be said, and Gould obliged.

"I told the referee in the tunnel the decision he made was criminal," Gould said. "For me the goal should have stood, but if he gave the penalty, the goalkeeper had to go. It's not that we wanted to see Bryan Gunn sent off, but that is the law."

"It is happening all the time. Linesmen and referees just don't understand the game properly. They don't understand that these sort of decisions affect the livelihoods of players and managers. He [Alan Gunn] gets in his car, drives home and is accountable to nobody."

"I told him that I didn't want to hear his explanation. For a change, I told him he would have to read my report. I'm not the only one in the game asking when people are going to stand up and be

counted. We have meetings with referees at the beginning of a season but there seems to be some sort of breakdown in communication."

It is hard to disagree. Not even Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, volunteered to make the case for Bryan Gunn. The inconsistency from officials, particularly as the professional foul applies to goalkeepers, has been a feature of the season. After two minutes of the game between Ipswich and Sheffield United on September 26, Craig Forrest, the Ipswich goalkeeper, upended Adrian Littlejohn. Ron Groves applied the law, and Forrest walked. Yet when Nigel Martyn, of Crystal Palace, was guilty of an almost identical foul on Peter Beardsley, of Everton, nine days ago, Roger Milford produced a yellow card.

Until referees are replaced by robots, Gould and his fellow managers are going to continue to suffer, if not always in silence.

When the red mist had cleared, Norwich could be seen perched, uneasily and temporarily, back on top of the table, Sutton converting one of a host of first-half chances, and Quinn earning Coventry a deserved point two minutes after Messrs Gunn and Gunn had stolen the limelight.

NORWICH CITY: S. Barry, J. Calverley, M. Bowen, J. Butterworth, J. Pickett (sub: C. Woodhouse), J. Gunn, I. Crook (sub: D. Smith), D. Beardsley, C. Sutton, R. Fox, D. Phillips.
COVENTRY CITY: S. O'Sullivan, S. Borrow, P. Beardsley, P. Beardsley, D. Bunt, J. Williams, C. Greenwood (sub: K. Howard), M. Gunn, R. Roberts, M. Quinn, K. Gallagher.
Referee: A. Gunn.



Point made: Gould despairs at the penalty miss on Saturday

Wilkinson's woes proving more than he can manage

Everton 2
Leeds United 0

By IAN ROSS

IRRESPECTIVE of what the immediate future may hold for Everton and Leeds United, it is the element of uncertainty surrounding the clubs' managers, Howard Kendall and Howard Wilkinson, that continues to fascinate.

The inconsistency of their teams apart, the two do have a lot in common, not least the self-deprecating humour that both are prone to employ when either the wisdom of their selection policies or inadequacies of their teams are called into question.

Not that Wilkinson had much to be jovial about at Goodison Park on Saturday. His appraisal of another setback was terse and delivered with the blank expression of a Buster Keaton, rather than with the grin-and-bear-it smile of an Oliver Hardy.

Having convinced himself — and others — that his team's lamentable away form was attributable to a lack of fortune, Wilkinson looked like a man who had been entrusted with the solution to his problems at midnight only to wake up with amnesia two hours later.

His admission that he neither understood the logic behind the damaging actions of some of his players nor could promise that the perpetrators would not repeat them, suggests that patience is beginning to ebb away.

While Leeds have been castigated for the banfield manner in which they have defended their title, it is important to remember that Wilkinson's remit upon succeeding Billy Bremner in 1988 was to return his club to the top flight.

Having achieved his objective 12 months early, at the end of the 1989-90 season, a revolution had been set in motion and the improbable end product was last May's championship success, the first since the heady days of Don Revie.

The team that Wilkinson had built, not so much to prosper as to consolidate, had reached its goal three years ahead of schedule. As a consequence, the gap between public expectation and the performances of a team earmarked for rebuilding continues to grow.

In contrast, Kendall's problem is the more familiar one of reluctant inheritance. Upon his return to Everton in 1990, he found the family jewels had not only been auctioned but replaced by unworthy imitations.

During his three-year absence, the team Kendall had led to two league championships, the FA Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup between 1984 and 1987 had disintegrated before his successor, Colin Harvey.

Kendall, like Graeme Souness at neighbouring Liverpool, must now complete a jigsaw that he knows is lacking several pieces. "My message to the supporters is, stick with us... we can turn this around," he said.

Saturday's game — a tribute to the ability of the British footballer to produce a spectacle in poor conditions — emphasised the limitations of both sides.

Everton won, and deservedly so, simply because Cottee was in one of his less lethargic moods. Starting a senior game for the first time in seven weeks, he scored with a fine header on the half-hour and with a precise drive shortly after half-time.

Had Leeds possessed a forward with his positional sense, they could easily have registered their first league victory away from Elland Road since April.

EVERTON: N. Southall, M. Jackson, G. Akin, J. Ebdon, D. Watson, M. Keown, P. Beardsley, P. Beardsley, A. Collins (sub: S. Bartow, S. Horne, P. Beagrie (sub: J. Seargeant)).
LEEDS UNITED: M. Day, J. Neascombe (sub: C. Fyfe, A. Dorrigo, D. Biley, D. Pearson, C. Wright, G. Bircham (sub: Rodney Wood, M. Shutt, L. Chapman, G. McAlister, G. Speed).
Referee: D. Elbery.

THE TIMES TABLE OF THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE

Clubs	P	Pls	Goal diff	W (H-A)	D (H-A)	L (H-A)	For (H-A)	Agst (H-A)	Leading scorers	Offences S-O	Home attendance Avg 92-3	% chg 91-2	Recent form	Next match
1 (+1) A Villa	24	44	+13	12 (7-5)	8 (3-5)	4 (2-2)	39 (23-16)	26 (12-14)	Atkinson 11, Saunders 10	- 12	27,616	+11.3	wldwww	Sheff Utd (1 Jan 27)
2 (+1) Norwich	24	42	-1	12 (7-5)	6 (4-2)	6 (1-5)	35 (16-19)	36 (10-26)	Robins 11, Phillips 7	- 12	15,153	+9.3	ldldld	C Palace (1 Jan 27)
3 (-2) Man Utd	23	41	+16	11 (7-4)	8 (3-5)	4 (2-2)	34 (21-13)	18 (9-9)	Hughes/Cantona 10	- 19	33,304	-26.0	wldwww	QPR (1 today)
4 (0) Blackburn	24	41	+15	11 (8-3)	8 (2-6)	5 (2-3)	35 (22-13)	20 (8-12)	Shearer 16, Ripley 4	2 24	17,522	+32.2	ldldldw	Coventry (1 Jan 26)
5 (0) Ipswich	24	36	+4	8 (5-3)	12 (6-6)	4 (1-3)	32 (19-13)	28 (13-15)	Kiwomya 8	1 17	17,695	+24.0	wldwld	Tottenham (1 Jan 26)
6 (0) QPR	22	35	+6	10 (6-4)	5 (3-2)	7 (2-5)	31 (23-8)	25 (10-9)	Ferdinand 8	- 21	15,356	+13.0	ldldw	Man Utd (1 today)
7 (+2) Arsenal	24	35	+2	10 (6-4)	5 (3-2)	9 (3-6)	25 (16-9)	23 (10-13)	Wright 11, Merson 4	- 30	25,403	-20.4	ldldw	Sheff Wed (1 Jan 27)
8 (-1) Chelsea	24	35	+1	9 (4-5)	8 (5-3)	7 (3-4)	30 (15-15)	29 (14-15)	Harford 8	- 26	20,458	+9.5	wldldld	QPR (1 Jan 27)
9 (-1) Man City	24	33	+7	9 (4-5)	6 (4-2)	9 (4-5)	34 (17-17)	27 (12-15)	White 12, Sheron 7	1 23	24,836	-10.3	ldldwld	Oldham (1 Jan 26)
10 (+1) Sheff Wed	24	33	+1	8 (5-3)	9 (4-5)	7 (3-4)	30 (17-13)	29 (15-14)	Hirst 9, Bright 8	- 20	27,412	-7.3	ldwldw	Arsenal (1 Jan 27)
11 (-1) Coventry	24	33	0	8 (4-4)	9 (3-6)	7 (5-2)	34 (19-15)	34 (16-18)	Quinn 12	- 14	15,431	+11.2	dewldld	Oldham (1 Sat)
12 (0) Liverpool	23	29	-1	8 (7-1)	5 (2-3)	10 (4-7)	36 (25-11)	37 (14-23)	Walters 6	1 18	36,071	+3.7	wldld	Leeds (1 Jan 27)
13 (+4) Everton	24	29	-5	8 (4-4)	5 (4-1)	11 (4-7)	25 (12-13)	30 (14-16)	Beardsley 7, Cottee 4	2 11	22,232	-4.0	ldwldw	Wimbledon (1 Jan 26)
14 (-1) Tottenham	24	29	-10	7 (5-2)	8 (4-4)	9 (3-6)	23 (15-8)	33 (13-20)	Sheringham 6, Barnaby 4	1 21	28,777	+3.7	wldwld	Ipswich (1 Jan 26)
15 (-1) Leeds	24	28	-5	7 (7-0)	7 (4-3)	10 (1-9)	35 (26-9)	40 (13-27)	Chapman 11, Speed 7	- 23	28,563	-3.3	wldwld	Liverpool (1 Jan 27)
16 (+3) Southampton	24	27	-4	6 (4-2)	9 (5-4)	9 (3-6)	24 (14-10)	28 (12-16)	Le Tissier/Dowie 6	1 35	14,810	+5.3	ldldw	Middlesbrough (1 Jan 26)
17 (-2) Middlesbrough	24	27	-5	6 (5-1)	9 (4-5)	9 (3-6)	34 (19-15)	39 (12-27)	Wilkinson 8, Hendrie 5	- 21	17,825	+21.2	wldld	Soton (1 Jan 26)
18 (-2) C Palace	24	27	-7	6 (3-3)	9 (5-4)	9 (4-5)	29 (15-14)	36 (15-21)	Armstrong 8	2 19	14,556	-17.4	wwwld	Norwich (1 Jan 27)
19 (+1) Sheff Utd	23	25	-7	6 (5-1)	7 (5-2)	10 (1-9)	22 (14-8)	29 (8-21)	Deane 8, Littlejohn 6	2 34	19,966	-9.6	ldldw	A Villa (1 Jan 27)
20 (+1) Wimbledon	24	24	-5	5 (3-2)	9 (4-5)	10 (5-5)	28 (16-12)	33 (16-17)	Holdsworth 6	2 33	7,484	+8.4	wldwld	Everton (1 Jan 26)
21 (-4) Oldham	22	24	-6	6 (5-1)	6 (3-3)	10 (3-7)	35 (22-13)	41 (15-25)	Sharp 7, Olney 6	- 20	12,210	-19.1	wldwld	Coventry (1 Sat)
22 (0) Nottm For	23	21	-9	-5 (3-2)	6 (2-4)	12 (8-4)	24 (9-15)	33 (11-22)	Barnister 7, Clough 5	- 10	20,389	-14.0	wldwld	Man Utd (1 Jan 27)

TRANSFERS: None. LOANS: Frantz Carr (Newcastle) to Sheffield Utd; Dave Beasant (Chelsea) to Wolves; Peter Duffield (Sheffield Utd) to Crewe. * Statistics refer to Premier League only.

Deane strikes timely goalscoring form

By LOUISE TAYLOR

BRIAN Deane gave Graham Taylor something to think about by scoring his second hat-trick in five days for Sheffield United on Saturday. With Alan Shearer, injured, Deane's three goals in a 3-0 win against Ipswich Town at Bramall Lane might just earn him a place in Taylor's England squad to face San Marino in a World Cup qualifier at Wembley next month.

Coming after his midweek FA Cup treble against Burnley, Deane's goals consigned Ipswich to a second successive Premier League defeat. Considering they have only lost four league games all season this marks something of a wobble for them.

If it dented Ipswich's outside championship chances, Deane's contribution relieved relegation fears at Bramall Lane. United need Deane valued at £3.5 million when he was the subject of transfer speculation last summer — to start scoring regularly. Until last week he had only seven goals in a season of struggle for Dave Bassett's side.

Bassett signed Franz Carr, the maverick former Nottingham Forest winger, on loan

from Newcastle United last week, and his cross duty made Deane's first goal.

If Taylor wants a new winger he could do worse than Stuart Ripley. A £1.3 million signing from Middlesbrough last summer, Ripley has been one of Kenny Dalglish's best signings at Blackburn Rovers, where he has created many of Alan Shearer's goals. In Shearer's absence, Ripley scored a goal of his own — his sixth of the season — to give Rovers a 1-0 win in the Lancashire derby at Oldham Athletic.

Arsenal were also without their leading scorer, the suspended Ian Wright. Yet they also recorded a victory — their first in the Premier League since November 7 — thanks to Paul Merson's goal in a 1-0 victory at Manchester City.

Chelsea's season seems to have crumbled. Out of both domestic cups, Ian Porterfield's side lost its fourth successive game, 3-0 at Nottingham Forest. Still bottom — for the twentieth consecutive week — Brian Clough's team had two goals from Bannister and another by Olyssson.

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Annual salary (superannuable) will be on an 11-point scale: HK\$343,680 - HK\$474,140 (approx. £28,403 - £47,450; sterling equivalent as at 21 December 1992). Starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience. At current rates, salaries tax will not exceed 18% of gross income. Children's education allowances, leave and medical benefits are provided; housing or tenancy allowances are also provided in most cases at a charge of 7.5% of salary.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Appointments (41346A), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 96 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PP, UK, or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (Fax: (852) 569 2088; E-mail: APPOINTMENT@UHKVM.HK). Closes: 12 March 1993.

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John Chapman (Chairman of the Bloxham Project Steering Committee), Leighton Park School, Shinfield Road, Reading, Berks. RG2 7DH. (Telephone No. 0734 872065) to whom application should be made by Monday 15th February, 1993.



ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL WORCESTER.

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The Governors of The Royal Grammar School Worcester invite applications for the post of Head which will become vacant in September 1993 on the retirement of Mr T E Savage TD MA.

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Details of the position may be obtained from:

The Clerk to the Governors, Royal Grammar School Worcester,
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POSTS

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX

The Governors of St. John's School invite applications for the post of Head which will become vacant in August, 1993, on the re-appointment of Mr. Paul Ramage. St. John's is a boys' day school with a pre-prep department, situated on a site of 30 acres. The Governors intend to appoint a person of appropriate academic standing with an interest in preparatory school education. They would prefer the Head to be married and between the ages of 35-45.

Full particulars of this appointment, together with an application form, which must be returned by 26th January, 1993, may be obtained from:

The Clerk to the Governors,
Marchant Taylor's Hall,
30 Thredneedle Street,
London, EC2R 8AY
Telephone No. 071 588 7806
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Full job description and further details available from the Headmaster's Secretary, Telephone no. 071-482-8291, Fax no. 071-329-6887. Closing date for completed applications Friday February 5th.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS LECTURER IN CLASSICS

Tenable from 1 October 1993. Candidates should be suitably qualified in Greek and Latin. A speciality in Ancient History is not desired.

Salary will be within the range £13,400 - £18,576 pa on the Lecturer Grade A Scale. However, it is likely that appointment may be made towards the lower end of the scale.

Application forms (returnable by 12 February 1993) and further details available from the Director of Personnel Services, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP (tel: 091 374 3158).

Please quote ref A162.

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The Senior School Secretary,
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- External Liaison

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The appointment will be for a fixed term of 5 years in the first instance and will be effective from October 1993.

Further details about the position in the form of a job description are obtainable from Miss S. Marie, Personnel Manager, 256 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LD, telephone 071 915 1003. Candidates should submit a full Curriculum Vitae for consideration by a special panel convened for selection. The receipt of applications will be coordinated by Miss Marie and the closing date will be 19 February.

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Department of History

Chair Of Medieval History

Applications are invited for the Chair of Medieval History which will be vacant from 1 September 1993.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Director of Personnel Services, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO9 2NH, telephone 0703 592353. Please quote reference number 2/164/Thames. Informal enquiries can be made to Professor J. R. H. Head of Department on 0703 592224.

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EDUCATION

Wise hand needed on the wheel

The teaching profession cannot work to its best when in thrall to the government, says Stuart Machure. It is time a General Teaching Council took some powers

For as long as I can remember, one of the pots on the back burner has been labelled "General Teaching Council". Doctors, dentists and lawyers have their own statutory self-regulatory bodies. Even the osteopaths are getting one. The General Medical Council regulates the affairs of the medical profession, controls qualifications and discipline. No government in its senses would attempt to interfere. But no such body exists for the teaching profession. It is directly supervised by the education secretary. He controls entry to the profession, lays down what a would-be teacher must do to achieve "qualified teacher status". He keeps the blacklist of banned teachers.

For more than a hundred years, there have been attempts to change this. The 1901 Act, which set up the Board of Education, produced a Teachers' Registration Council but what emerged was a voluntary scheme which got nowhere. On the other hand, a statutory General Teaching Council for Scotland was set up in the 1966 and controls teachers' qualifications and discipline north of the border.

The case for a GTC for England and Wales has been re-stated by a broadly-based coalition of bodies representing teachers in schools and in teacher education, led by Professor John Tomlinson of Warwick University and John Sayer, a former president of the Secondary Heads Association. Last autumn they published a draft bill, which has been widely circulated, in search (presumably) of a friendly MP who might be lucky in the private members' ballot. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats back the idea of a GTC.

There is also interest in the proposals at the National Commission on Education which early recognised that no plans to jacking up education standards will get anywhere unless something is done to raise the morale and status of teachers. Do the latest

proposals have anything to offer? Their proponents met the commission and were cross-examined at length. They came away with the impression that Lord Walton and his colleagues were prepared to take them seriously.

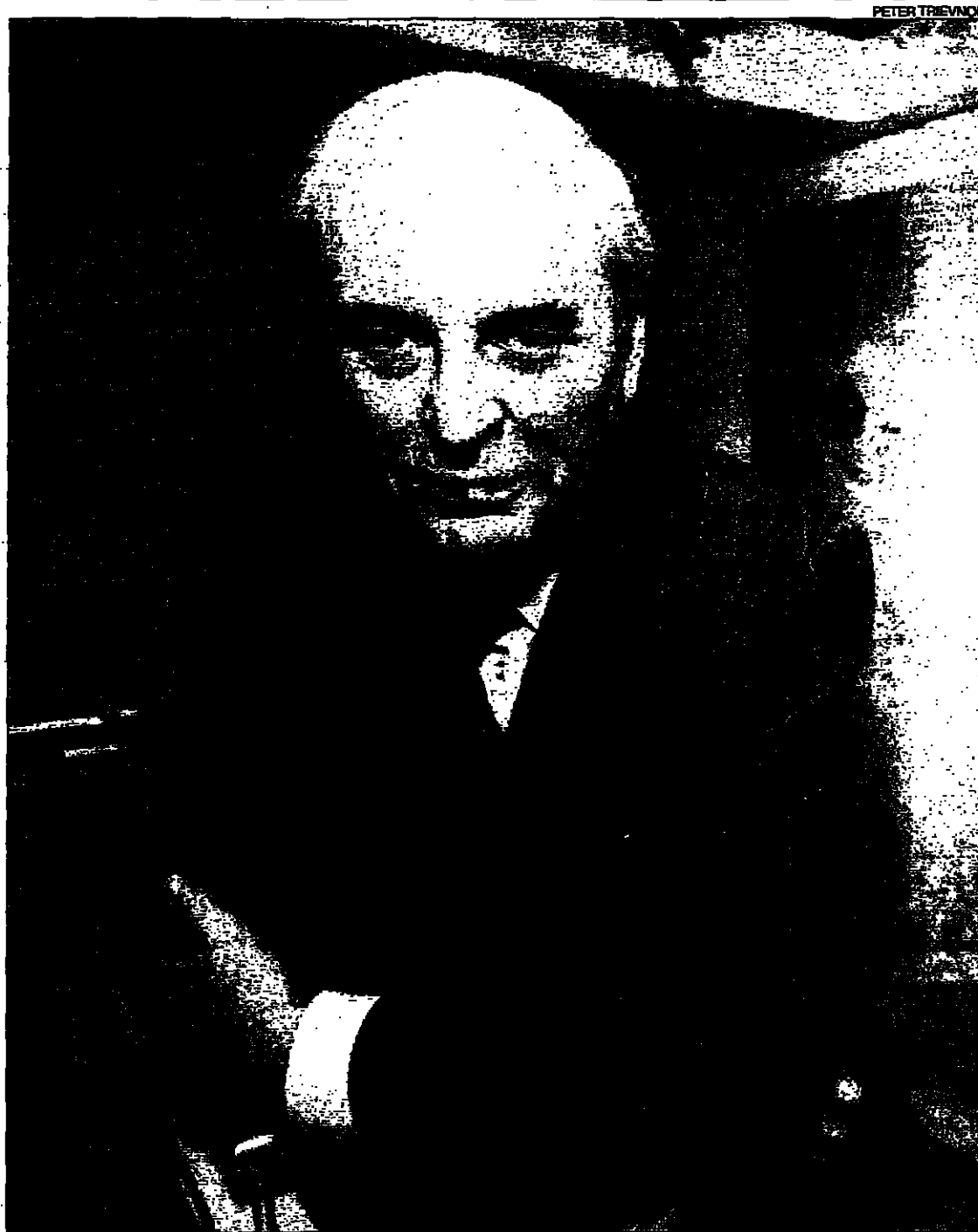
My own view is that a GTC could perform a strictly limited but useful function for the teaching profession and for the public good, but that it is no panacea, and we should not be tempted to overstate what it could do.

The Scottish GTC has been successful without in any sense setting the Firth of Forth on fire. It has concentrated on its main duties — the oversight of the teacher-education programmes and professional discipline. The Scottish education system is small by comparison with the English and there is a strong consensus on many matters which are highly contentious in England and Wales. What can be said is that, although the unions take a close interest in elections to the Scottish

You can argue that ministers ought to be required to listen

GTC, the council itself has not become a cockpit of teacher politics. As in Scotland, the English proposals provide for the setting up of a register of teachers. Being on the register would be a condition of practice as a teacher. The GTC would determine the qualifications needed for registration. Misconduct might result in disqualification or lesser punishment. Where these proposals go beyond the Scottish is in the matter of advice on teacher supply and training: the suggestion is that the English GTC should be given the statutory duty of advising the secretary of state, to ensure that broader policy should be informed by the collective wisdom of the teaching profession.

Behind this suggestion is the experience of past decades when there used to be a national advisory council on the supply and training of teachers. Twice such councils were set up: twice they were disbanded by education secretaries who lost patience with them and regarded them



Professor Tomlinson: his kind of GTC would probably face opposition in several Whitehall corridors

as self-interested pressure groups. To suggest the GTC should take on this role raises the stakes: in particular, it pinpoints the position of advisory bodies whose advice is not welcome. When such "independent" bodies express their views they immediately take on a political role. Millions of pounds are invested in the education system. The teaching force is one of its main resources. The GTC would immediately be drawn into sensitive areas: its pronouncements would be seized upon by the Opposition and published in advance by the government if critical.

Y ou can argue that all this simply reinforces the case for an independent GTC — that ministers ought to be required to listen, that professionals ought to have the right to be heard.

The story of the National Curriculum Council, set up by the 1986 Act to give the secretary of state honest advice, can be seen as a cautionary

tail which supports this view. Duncan Graham's account of his three years as chairman of the NCC in *A Lesson for Us All* tells of the lengths to which ministers and civil servants were prepared to go to make sure that they were only given the advice they wanted to hear. Certainly, ministers who manipulate advisory bodies and pack them with their friends are unlikely to get things right in the long term. This should not be accepted as the normal way of conducting public business. But equally clearly, the kind of GTC envisaged by Professor Tomlinson and his colleagues could only be enacted against the concerted opposition of ministers and the education department.

It is only fairly recently that ministers have realised how powerful is their control of teacher education. It is directly related to the national curriculum. In the mythology which now dominates, the teacher trainers have "failed the nation". The main thrust of policy is to reduce their

influence and make them toe the education department line.

Most of this is empty rhetoric, but behind it there is a wider suspicion of the interest groups who are asking for independent, professional recognition — the suspicion that they may be part of the problem rather than the solution. So long as this suspicion is widespread, the kind of wide-ranging GTC which is being suggested is not a runner. Maybe it never should be. But there is no reason why the profession should not have a bigger say on professional qualifications and in-service training, and complete control of its own professional discipline. Half a loaf now might lead to something more substantial later on.

● The author's pamphlet, *A General Teaching Council for England and Wales*, is published today. Copies are available, free, from the National Commission on Education, Suite 24, 10-18 Manor Gardens, London N7 6JY.

Leading article, page 15

Walls do not a school make

Anthea Saxon's Viewpoint last week was worrying in its assumption that splendid buildings (and the budget to maintain them) guarantee a good education, hence her choice of a co-educational school for her daughter.

The reason our parents choose to send their daughters to a single-sex school is not because of our bricks and mortar (fine Victorian, but not everybody's taste) but because, as a girls' school, we can offer a highly specific preparation for the outside world to girls. This means that everything we do, whether academically or pastorally, is geared to their particular needs.

In sweeping general terms, girls mature faster (at least until they are about 16), they tend to be gentler and more compliant, they want to please and are concerned about being wrong. Boys, on the other hand, demonstrate more outward confidence, are louder, more aggressive and more direct and many show a natural desire for leadership. Research has shown real differences in brain development too, with auditory, visual, spatial and linguistic variations according to sex.

A good school should help to develop a child in the widest sense, but it is almost impossible to do so effectively if you are trying to be all things to all pupils, especially during adolescence when pressures to be attractive, thin and popular are stronger than the pleasures of displaying intellect. Clever women, in fact, often learn to disguise their intelligence.

At the heart of the matter is confidence, a quality that women tend to lack and which they need in abundance if they are to compete successfully and happily later on. We have to learn to be a little bit pushy, to believe in ourselves and not to be afraid of sometimes being wrong. Greater self-confidence leads to better examination results, too.

In mixed classes, the boys tend to monopolise (a recent survey showed that, on average, only one in four questions in co-educational classes come from girls). Dispiriting and out-facing for the girls, it encourages all but the bravest

to retire early from the contest. In a single-sex school, it is simply less of a battle and a few small personal victories can change a child's perception of herself for ever.

Academically, the reaction of girls and boys to individual subjects can be as diverse as their characters. In my own area, history, girls tend to love the people and the drama, while boys are fascinated by battle.

If a child is truly to enjoy a subject, it is essential to follow and stimulate their particular interests, but balancing a detailed look at the Armada campaign with an analysis of Elizabeth's relationship with Philip of Spain is difficult indeed.

These intellectual differences are even more obvious in those subjects that girls are supposed to be bad at, such as maths and the sciences.

In maths, we find that girls mature very fast and understand very complex ideas at 13 or 14, before slowing down to a more gentle progress, while boys seem to have this mathematical spurt two to three years later. Because we have only girls, we have the chance to teach them as much as they want during this growth period so that they have a sophisticated grounding at the time they need it most. Last term, all our maths A-level students gained A or B grades.

On a personal level, the huge advantage of a single-sex school for girls is that they can simply be people. They are under no pressure to conform to a female stereotype. They don't have to worry unduly about their looks: they will make friends because they are liked for themselves. These relationships build confidence, provide a sympathetic rock during the turbulence of puberty.

In every subject, the basic lessons need to be learnt well if success is to follow. Life is no different — and a girl must find self-confidence, self-worth and self-esteem if she is to progress happily and capably through it.

Complex lessons indeed — and buildings alone are not enough. ● The author is the headmistress, The Godolphin School, Salisbury.

VIEWPOINT



Hilary Fender

The brave new world of school inspection is, in some eyes, badly flawed

Last spring, as the government tried to hurry through its remaining parliamentary bills before the general election, it was defeated in the House of Lords on its plans for school inspectors.

The aim was to reform school inspection through competition among inspectors and by offering choice to schools. In the past, school inspection fell entirely to Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) and the local education authority (LEA) inspectors. HMI had overall national responsibility while each LEA inspected its own schools. The new scheme would bring in new blood and new ways.

Instead of the subjective, impressionistic inspections of HMI, reported in the terms favoured by progressive educationalists, the new inspections would concentrate on recording, objectively, the standards and academic achievements of schools. Registered inspectors would offer their services — as do accountants and lawyers — and the schools would choose which to employ. Competition among the inspectors would keep standards and objectivity up and prices down.

But the Opposition forces ambushed and amended the bill. Instead of schools choosing their inspectors, the government or the chief inspector, Professor Stewart Sutherland, would do so. Although the government put a brave face on the change, the central character of reform had been undermined. Then, as the detailed plans for implementing the bill became known, a prescriptive document, the Framework for the Inspection of Schools, issued by Ofsted (the Office for Standards in Education, the office of the new chief inspector), further narrowed the basis for choice and appeared designed to perpetuate the *ancien régime*.

Behind the original proposals for reform lay the failings in recent decades of the national inspection system, over which HMI held the monopoly. Bad, often dreadful, schools

On a hiding to nothing



Stewart Sutherland: retained right to appoint inspectors

seemed to avoid identification for too long. And good schools, with good academic results, were often castigated for being too traditional. HMI became a proponent of progressive educational theories, and it set about promoting them through its schools reports and through publications on the curriculum. But turn to the framework on which the new regime of inspection will be based and what do we find? The prejudices and predilections of progressive education overshadow what should be central: the reporting of academic standards. Impressionistic and subjective evaluation with an anti-traditional bias is the order of the day.

The recent craze for "cross curricular" approaches, and the theories of race and gender have left their mark. Inspectors are supposed to evaluate the quality of learning and "relevant learning skills" such as observation and information seeking, looking for past terms, solving problems, working with others. To cap it all results will be analysed by gender and ethnicity. Elsewhere we read that

inspectors must consider the quality of relationships between pupils and their peers and consider cultural development through discussion with head, staff and chair (sic) of the governing body. Spiritual and moral development is to be judged by reference to a diverse range of activities including the quality of relationships among pupils and staff. Inspectors must also evaluate a school's "policy for equality of opportunity" for meeting needs "arising from gender, ability, ethnicity and social circumstance".

N ot only is much that must be inspected misguided: the whole inspection demanded is over-elaborate. Everything is to be inspected in a process which would make the former bureaucratic of Eastern Europe look streamlined. Every school is also to be treated to the same full-length inspection — with no differentiation allowed between the best and the worst. A minimum number of inspector days is set out.

Take, for example, a small middle or secondary school with 300 pupils. Thirty-three

days, or six and a half school weeks, must be spent there by an inspector. And for the larger secondary school of 1,500-plus pupils, the minimum is 57 days, practically a term. Only in the road world of education would a team of inspectors be required to spend an obligatory period inspecting a given institution, gaining impressions of a welter of inessential things. And who will conduct these elaborate inspections? Will they attract the new blood on which change depends — educated men and women from other professions, academics undertaking part-time work, women graduates who have left their professions to bring up their children? No, the old guard look poised to remain.

Ofsted is responsible for registering inspectors, training them, and, finally, appointing the teams to inspect individual schools. Again, nowhere but in the world of education would such a system be considered. Who would maintain, for example, that accountants be trained by the state, chosen by the state, and allocated to firms to conduct an audit by the state?

The government faces two tasks if school inspection really is to be reformed. First, it must ensure the framework under which inspections occur is revised so that inspectors are required to report objectively on academic standards, but not obliged to squander time on inessential and, in some cases, misguided activities. This would require no new legislation, merely the replacement of the framework document. Second, it needs to find the parliamentary time to reverse the disastrous amendment made to the original bill and make competition in school inspection reality rather than mere rhetoric.

SHEILA LAWLER

● The author's pamphlet *Inspecting the School Inspector*, New Plans, Old Ills is published today by the Centre for Policy Studies.

Teaching the write way

The university lecturer who threw the book and red pen at his students

Several years ago I read an article about an American professor who wrote a novel together with students in his creative writing class. A novelist himself, he thought this would be the best way to teach the undergraduates how to write. I wondered if I could do the same thing with my students at the University of Kent, at Canterbury.

I approached an editor at a publishing house specialising in theology. "Look," I said. "There's a gap in the market for a book about the history of ethics. I've taught the subject for 15 years and I've never had a good textbook to use." I proposed that I might get my students to write such a book, with me as the editor. "But can they do it?" he asked. I said that I was sure they could.

At the first session of the academic year I told my students about the plan and waved the contract from the publisher in front of the class. I told them they would each have to write essays about individual

thinkers. I would then read what they had written and hand it back for them to revise along the lines I suggested. The students looked at one another. "You mean our essays will be published in a book?" one student asked. "Of course," I replied. "But they'll have to be good enough." I did not want to force the class to participate, so we had a vote. Everyone wanted to be part of the project.

At the next class, I passed around an outline of the book. *A Brief History of Ethics*, divided into 15 sections with about ten writers in each. Each essay was to be about 1,000 words, making the book approximately 150,000 words or about 300 pages. Each student then chose five writers. With 15 students in the class, about half of the book would

be written this academic year; my class next year would complete the other half.

Anxiously, the students handed in their first essays several weeks later. I stacked them on my desk and began to read, armed with a red pen. After scrutinising the first paragraph of the first essay, I knew I was in for hard work. I shook my head in disbelief — it needed massive revision. Half an hour later the essay was a complete mess, with red markings everywhere.

Perhaps, I thought, this project was not a good idea after all. The next essay was better, and my spirits lifted. Eventually I finished them all. It was clear that each one needed to be rewritten, but with a great deal of labour I was convinced that they would be of publishable standard.

At the next session, I returned my students' work. They gasped when they saw all the red ink. "You've all got to redo your essays," I said. "Some need a lot of revision; others need to be tidied up. But you can't expect to be published authors without considerable effort."

Some of the students roared, others looked distraught. I made some of them sub-editors, and then read out a list of those whose work was satisfactory. These were to be my assistants. Each was assigned a student whose work needed substantial revision. "I don't want to have any essay back until each sub-editor is satisfied. OK?" My class smiled wanly.

We are now half-way through my ethics course, and I have a pile of revised essays on my desk which are rather

good. It is gratifying to see such improvement: the students are on their way to becoming authors. After struggling for weeks with her first essay, one of the undergraduates came to see me. "You know," she said, "until I was forced to revise

this essay, I didn't realise how terrible my writing was. I've been looking at essays I wrote last year for other classes, and I'm ashamed. The writing is so awful!"

We are making headway, but in front of me in another stack of typewritten essays to be corrected, I never thought I would be the one to work this hard.

DAN COHN-SHERBOK

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Court of Appeal

Monopolies reference incorrect

Regina v Director General of Fair Trading, Ex parte Southdown Motor Services Ltd and Others

Before Mr Justice Auld

[Judgment January 11]

By virtue of section 6(2) of the Competition Act 1980, the Director General of Fair Trading was not entitled to include in a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under section 5 of the Act any course of conduct which he had not already described as anti-competitive in a report under section 3 and found to be in connection with services specified in that report.

Mr Justice Auld so held in the Queen's Bench Division when granting declaratory relief to the applicants, Southdown Motor Services Ltd, Sussex Coastlines Buses Ltd and Stage Coach Holdings plc, who sought judicial review of a decision of the Director General of Fair Trading to make a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission concerning the operation of bus services in the Bognor Regis area when his report under section 3 had been concerned only with the conduct of two specific bus services.

Mr David Pannick, QC, for the applicants; Mr Kenneth Parkin, QC, and Miss Vivian Rose for the director general; Mr William Charles for the commission.

MR JUSTICE AULD said that the purpose of a preliminary investigation by the director general under section 3(1) was to establish whether there was or had been a "course of conduct" amounting to an anti-competitive practice.

"The notice of such investigation that he was required to give under section 3(2) had to indicate, *inter alia*, 'the matters to be investigated', that is, the possible anti-competitive course of conduct and 'the ... services to which the investigation is to relate'."

The director general's report of his investigation was required by section 3(10) to contain his reasoned opinion whether the anti-competitive course of conduct described in the report in connection with section 2(1) the services specified in it was anti-competitive.

In the event, the director general so reported and decided under section 3(1)(b) that it was appropriate for him to make a reference to the Monopolies Commission, he could do so under section 5.

Under section 6(1) the reference had to specify the persons or persons, the services and the anti-competitive course or courses of conduct in connection with such persons or persons and services to be investigated.

But, under section 6(2) it could not specify as subjects for investigation any services not specified or

any course of conduct not specified in the report.

Put another way it had to be limited to anti-competitive conduct described, in connection with services specified, in the report.

The director general's report in the instant case was titled and framed so as to indicate that it and the investigation giving rise to it were concerned essentially with Southdown's conduct of two specific bus services, numbers 242 and 262.

Mr Parker submitted that despite its title the report contained a number of references to bus services and courses of conduct generally in the Bognor Regis area which amounted to specification of services and description of courses of conduct for the purposes of section 3(10) and 6(1) and (2), and submitted that section 6(2) did not prevent the director general from referring to the commission a course of conduct which, in his report, he had described but not found to be anti-competitive.

It was true that section 6(1) and (2) did not expressly restrict a reference to an anti-competitive course of conduct, but, as section 2(1) of the Act stated, that group of sections "have effect with a view to the control of anti-competitive practices".

Moreover, section 3(10) in conformity with section 3(1) defining the purpose of an investigation giving rise to such a report, only

permitted a reference if the director general had found a course of conduct to be anti-competitive, and section 3(10)(a) only required him to specify in the report the persons concerned with the goods or services in question, that is, in connection with the anti-competitive conduct, if there had been such a finding.

It was, therefore, difficult to see how there could be a reference under section 6(2) which did not concern an anti-competitive course of conduct. In any event, a course of conduct, anti-competitive or not, could only be referred to the commission if it had been described in the report in such a way as to indicate that it related to specified goods or services, that it had been the subject of investigation and that it was worthy of a reference under section 5.

Clearly, the mere mention in a report of a course of conduct as part of the trading background or by way of comparison or in some other incidental manner, would not qualify.

His Lordship was accordingly of the view that the reference, in specifying as a course of conduct the charging of economic fares in connection with bus services generally in the Bognor Regis area was unlawful.

Solicitors: Dibb Lupton Broomhead; Treasury Solicitor; Treasury Solicitor.

Middlebrook Mushrooms Ltd v Transport and General Workers Union and Others

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Hoffmann

[Judgment December 16]

A trade union's proposed campaign of distributing leaflets outside supermarkets urging members of the public to support dismissed employees of a mushroom producer by refusing to buy the producer's mushrooms was not tortious. Accordingly, the employer was not entitled to an injunction preventing the union from embarking on its campaign.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the defendants, the Transport and General Workers Union and three of its officials, from the decision of Mr Justice Blundell dated December 4, 1992, who had granted the plaintiff employers, Middlebrook Mushrooms Ltd, an interlocutory injunction restraining the union from distributing leaflets outside supermarkets and shops.

That involved standing outside supermarkets and shops distributing leaflets which stated that 89 women had been dismissed by the employers for refusing a pay cut and urging the public to support the women by refusing to buy the employers' mushrooms.

Mr John Hand, QC and Mr Thomas Linden for the union; Mr

Alan Pardoe, QC, for the employers.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the employers argued that there had been direct interference by the union with contracts to which the employers were parties.

It was submitted that therefore there was a serious and substantial issue as to whether there was a cause of action in tort against the union. The contracts were identified as being the contracts between the employers and their supermarket customers.

The union's case was (a) that the distribution of the leaflets outside supermarkets did not and could not in any way amount to direct interference with any contract to which the employers were parties; (b) that there was no evidence of any relevant contracts to which the employers were parties or of the terms of any such contracts; and (c) that in the absence of any evidence as to the existence or terms of any contracts it was impossible to show that a breach of contract was likely to result from any conduct of the union.

The union submitted that the intended actions of the distributors of the leaflets were directed at members of the public. At most, the interference by the union was indirect and no unlawful means had been proved or were even relied on. There was nothing illegal in seeking to persuade a third party not to make a contract.

The classic exposition of the principles underlying direct interference with contractual relations was in *D. C. Thomson & Co Ltd v MacLaurin* (1952) Ch 646, 694, per Lord Justice Jenkins.

In the present case, the court was concerned only with the first of Lord Justice Jenkins' four categories of direct interference since the employers submitted that the distribution of leaflets outside supermarkets brought the case within the principle in *Lumley v Gye* (1853) 2 E & B 216.

His Lordship could not accept the employers' submission that it was enough for them to prove that one or more supermarket managers might be influenced by the distribution of the leaflets outside the doors of the supermarkets. If the case was to fall within the *Lumley v Gye* category, the petition had to be directed at one of the parties to the contract. It was therefore necessary in every case to examine the form or nature of the communication on which a plaintiff relied.

In the present case, the leaflet was directed to the customers. There was no message in the leaflet for the management of the supermarkets. They were not exhorted to take any action or to desert from taking any action.

In his Lordship's judgment it was most important not to extend the *Lumley v Gye* principle outside its proper limits. That category of

interference was concerned with the direct persuasion of one of the parties to the contract to break his contract.

Although the union did not specifically rely on article 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953) (Cmd 8969) it was relevant to bear in mind that in all cases "which involved a proposed restriction on the right of free speech the court, when exercising its discretion, should consider whether the suggested restraint was necessary."

In the present case, one did not reach the question of the exercise of a discretion. In his Lordship's judgment the distribution of the leaflets in the way proposed did not fall within the *Lumley v Gye* principle at all.

Where direct pressure was brought to bear on strangers to the contract and the effect on the contracting party was indirect, it was necessary to show that some unlawful means had been employed if the conduct was to be actionable.

On the facts of the present case, however, there were no such means and the employers were not entitled to injunctive relief.

Lord Justice Hoffmann delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Mann agreed with Lord Justice Neill.

Solicitors: Pattinson & Brewer; Barradell, Leicester.

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MUSIC page 30

Pierre Boulez shares
a drop of the hard stuff
with Birmingham's
intrepid concert-goers.

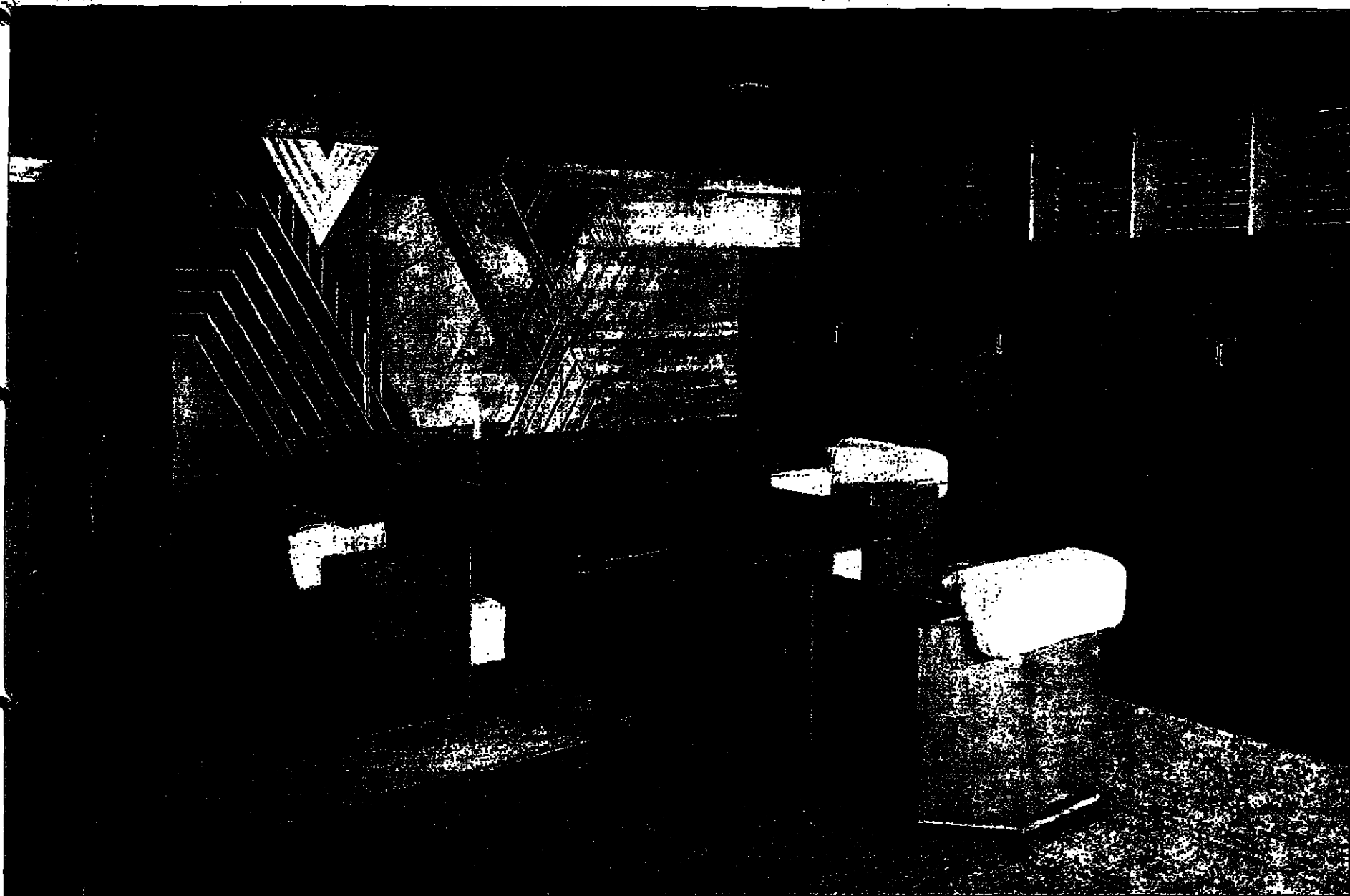
ARTS

MIME page 31

A rebellious Czech in
Britain: Bolek Polivka
prepares for the
Queen Elizabeth Hall



Room for the Wright stuff



Almost like a stage set: the office designed for Edgar J. Kaufmann by Frank Lloyd Wright, completed in 1937, and now in the Frank Lloyd Wright gallery at the V & A

By all accounts Edgar Kaufmann Jr died an angry man. Fifteen years after he had generously donated a complete Frank Lloyd Wright room to the Victoria and Albert Museum, with furniture, fabrics and carpets, it still lay in tatters. The slight was the greater as it was Kaufmann Sr who had commissioned the most famous of all Wright's houses, Falling Water. So when an American, Christopher Wilk, took over as curator of furniture and woodwork, he felt it a point of honour to install the room, and promptly raised the funds necessary to do it.

Kaufmann was the proprietor of Pittsburgh's leading department store and had recently had the entire ground floor remodelled in fashionable French Art Deco style. According to Wilk he was "a dynamic and successful businessman who passionately believed that businessmen had a duty to patronise artists both at home and in the office".

Among his period rooms that a museum might acquire, the Kaufmann office is both unusual and appropriate. It was constructed almost like a stage set — the existing outside walls and windows were wholly masked from direct view. Wright believed the machine was "the normal tool of our civilisation". He was committed to taking his message to a much wider public. So the whole office — floors, walls and ceilings — is made of the most basic of building materials, sheets of eight-by-four plywood, not the usual materials for a chairman's office. This enabled Wright to design the room on a simple four-by-four module or grid. Even the floors were either four-foot or two-foot wide. But like all artists he ultimately used his eye to judge certain proportions.

Marcus Binney on the masterpiece of interior design that forms the focal point of the Frank Lloyd Wright gallery at the V & A

Here is a classic statement of modernism, showing how a room can be opulent and atmospheric without conventional ornament. There is no cornice, no skirting, no architrave to the doors or mouldings to the panels. Everything is close-fitting and perfectly flush.

Wright gave the room luxuriance with a veneer of stained swamp cypress applied to every surface. He called cypress "the wood eternal" and swamp cypress "more eternal".

He was not against ornament as such but simply believed it should be "of the surface not on the surface". The leitmotif of the room was a vast abstract marquetrie mural filling the entire wall behind Kaufmann's desk. This was designed in every detail by Wright, but owned by his partner, Manuel Sandoval.

Inspired by Wright's autobiography, Sandoval had sent a cable asking if he could study architecture as an apprentice at Wright's Taliesin colony. "Once his real talents were known, Mr Wright never let him out of the woodwork shop," said a contemporary.

The mural is a virtuoso essay in a new diagonal geometry Wright was pioneering in the 1930s, using it for floor plans and then elevations. Sandoval reported to Wright how he was manipulating the grain in the office "to produce a continuous efflorescence of cypress grain in the middle of the room running towards the desk below". The room was conceived as a total work of art, a

demonstration by Wright that architecture was the mother of the arts. Wright designed not only the furniture but also the fabrics made for him by Loja Saarinen, wife of Eliel, the Finnish architect then working in Detroit.

Wilk says the room has been put together very much as it was originally. Wright designed it so that not a nail or screw was visible and the woodwork, even the ceiling, was tongue-and-groove jointed.

Partition walls have been erected and Wright's panels glued from

make a marvellous and relatively economic paneled room following his example. Fine and exotic veneers, in particular, have never been more easily available.

Douglas Blain, who has restored numerous 18th-century houses in Spitalfields, says: "Museum rooms should be set up so you can see them from behind as well as from in front. This is obviously not possible in houses and a point where museums could score."

One of the attractions of period rooms in museums has always been the element of voyeurism, looking in and seeing the room as a whole. The Kaufmann office works well in this way, as existing doorways on two sides allow the visitor to examine every part of the room.

However, it is now so hallowed a relic that light levels are kept low, principally to protect fabrics. As a result much of the ingenuity of the graining and the woodwork is not easily visible. Large blown-up colour photographs or a colour video are needed to allow people to study the detail.

The National Trust has pioneered an interesting new technique on these lines. Faced with the problem of an 18th-century room decorated with seashells that was too fragile and difficult of access to open, it has provided a remote control video which visitors can operate to look round the room and focus on anything they want. However, by creating a new Wright gallery around the Kaufmann office, the V & A does provide a remarkable glimpse into

'Wright showed how a room can be opulent or atmospheric without conventional ornament'

behind to wooden blocks detached from the partitions. Ceiling panels are suspended from rows of metal rods.

Here perhaps the V & A has missed a trick. The interest of period rooms in museums lies not only in studying them as examples of taste or style or design. Today many people want to learn how they were put together and restored, either because they are restoring houses themselves, or they want to experiment with unusual decorative techniques.

Part of the brilliance of Wright's design is its simplicity. Any competent handyman or carpenter could

You were all super, troupers

In Stockholm, a new musical about Abba has just opened. David Barta reports

Four singers in dazzling shirts, flared pants and platform shoes are belting out a silly but undeniably catchy ditty called "Waterloo". Remember the Eurovision Song Contest, Brighton, 1974? Well, the Swedes certainly do. And a new musical, currently playing at Berns Salonger, a 19th-century music hall in Stockholm, recreates the story of the pop legend born that night.

The latest incarnation of Abba is a light-hearted new show that embroiders a flattering sequinned frame around songs that were themselves some of the best tailored of the 1970s. Although the fabric of the narrative holding together *Abba: The True Story* is thin, and many of the allusions frankly incomprehensible except to Swedes, the audience wasn't complaining.

In the beginning, there was only country and western music, so God decided to create a band, a voice off-stage declares at the start of this tongue-in-cheek documentary. What follows does not go far in answering the big question — why Abba was such an enormous success, and why this mega-group emerged from Sweden, of all places. But it touches on some of the hurdles the foursome had to clear.

For instance, by selecting the name Abba, the group bravely risked being confused with the country's largest herring cannery, which also has that name. More fundamentally, the ethos of the group seemed hopelessly at odds with the radical spirit of the times. Sweden in the early 1970s was rife with political demonstrations, grey turtle-necks and ragged leftist chic. Fun-loving, glittery Abba did not fit into a country which

could still describe itself without a smile as the "conscience of the world".

In one key scene, Abba tries vainly to sell the song, "SOS", to a record company which has a large portrait of Che Guevara on its wall (covering a safe stuffed with money bags). The record producer, wrapped in a Palestinian shawl, suggests that "SOS" be played with bongos and finger cymbals as a protest song. That's irony, Swedish style. The musical also looks at the price of celebrity, the problem of taking care of all the acquired loot, and the demands that Abba keep up with the times by trying heavy metal.

Against a perfect backdrop — an illuminated disco dance floor turned on its side — the young and enthusiastic cast ably performed such classics as "Voulez-Vous", "Gimme, Gimme, Gimme", "Mama Mia", "Take A Chance On Me", and "Knowing Me, Knowing You". Although some songs sound close to their original versions, others get a new slant, which helped save the show from sinking beneath waves of self-indulgent nostalgia. One talented singer in particular, Gladys del Pilar, brought the house down with a soulful version of "Dancing Queen".

Of course, the producers of *Abba: The True Story* have been accused of shameless opportunism, of timing this show to coincide with the Abba revival that is inexplicably sweeping Europe. But it is ten years since Björn, Benny, Frida and Agnetha split up, and it can also be argued that it was time someone finally celebrated the extraordinary success of Abba on their home turf. If the show succeeds in Stockholm, the West End may be next.



Take a chance on me: the all-singing cast of the new musical, *Abba: The True Story*, in full Seventies fig

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The Times Theatre Club: this week's offers are from six different theatres

Take a spring break in the Dales

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The cost is £155, which includes two nights accommodation, all meals, top price seats and the tour. Tel 0748 850220 quoting the Times Theatre Club. This offer is not bookable through the Club number.

LONDON

Our Song by Keith Waterhouse. Apollo Theatre. Book a top price ticket to see Peter O'Toole in *Our Song* and enjoy a pre- or post-theatre dinner at the Amalfi Italian restaurant in Old Compton Street for £24.00.

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

The offer is available Monday to Thursday until March 11. Telephone the Club number for details.

It Runs in the Family. Playhouse Theatre, February 1, 2, 3 at 8.00pm.

Pay just £10 for the best seats to see Ray Cooney's new comedy about a neurologist with John Quaye, Sandra Dickinson, Bill Pertwee and Ray Cooney. Tel 071-839 4401.

The Last Yankee. Young Vic. January 21-30, 8.00pm and 2.30pm. Sat.

Arthur Miller's new play opens next week starring Zoe Wanamaker, Peter Davison, David Healy and Helen Burns. Members can buy two tickets for the price of one. Tel 071-928 6363.

SCOTLAND

Dundee Rep Theatre. February 1, 8, 15 and March 1, 8, 15, 7.30pm.

This is Hamish Glen's first season as artistic director and the theatre is offering members two tickets for the price of one for Charles Dickens's *Hard Times* in February, and Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* in March. Tel 0382 23530.

BRIGHTON

Anna Karenina presented by Shared Experience Theatre Company, Theatre Royal, February 10, 7.30pm.

Members can buy two tickets for the price of one, attend a pre-performance talk and get a 10% reduction from the Finocchio Restaurant. Tel 0273 328488.

SALISBURY

What the Butler Saw by Joe Orton. Playhouse, January 21, 22, 23, 8.00pm and 4.00pm, Sat.

For the first play in the season members can get £3 off tickets. Tel 0722 320333.

To book any of these offers call the Club on 071-413 1412, open 24 hours a day, or call the theatres during box office hours. You can use the Club's booking line for other West End shows. A service charge is levied in some instances.

To join send a cheque for £12.50, payable to The Theatre Club, with your name, address and telephone number to: The Theatre Club, PO Box 3, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 3HF. For more information telephone 071-387 9673.

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LONDON

THE GREAT AGE OF BRITISH WATERCOLOUR: The important show of watercolours between 1750 and 1850 marks the most important work done in watercolour. Some 200 works by the most famous British watercolourists make the point irresistibly.

ERIC GILL: The first to concentrate on Gill's important sculptures, this show presents him as one of the most brilliant of all stone-carvers. The works combining Gothic and religious elements are wonderfully chiseled.

Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

ALICIA: Staged version of Handel's opera, staged for the Royal Opera by American director Stephen Wadsworth, salvaged by the double-edged of Yvonne Kenny in the leading role and Ann Murray as her lover, Ruggiero. John Fisher conducts.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2E 6PU (01-476 3441). 7pm.

BOY AYERS: Good lyrics, meaningful lyrics and an Afrobeat rhythm. The group earned the multi-talented blues player much acclaim during the 1970s and early 1980s. His latest CD Double Trouble sees him using popular synths and drum programming.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

BLACK LIGHT THEATRE OF PRAGUE: The company returns after a long absence with its surrealistic adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice*.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

CAROUSEL: Joanna Riding and Michael Hayden star in a triumphantly revised of Rodgers & Hammerstein's famous musical.

National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 8UL (01-476 3441). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2pm, 4pm, 12pm.

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS: Ian Judge's subtly funny production, with award-winning comedian Benji playing both parts.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

THE DEEP BLUE SEA: Rattigan's play on infatuation gets into high gear. Strong performances by Penelope Walton and Lina Rossio, exemplary production by Peter Firth.

Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

HAY FEVER: Very funny performance (not always where you expect) in Coward's excellent comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2E 6PU (01-476 3441). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

HEART: Black Mime Theatre's play on passion and physical theatre. It suggests how relationships go wrong. Young Vic Studio, 60 The Oval, SE1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Anna Carter, Hannah Gordon and Martin Shaw in Weller's "sadder clatter".

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

NEW RELEASES

SEAN ENTERS DOGS (18): Film crew follows loquacious film on his rounds. Chester Connell agrees to bring new Belgian film-makers Remy Belin, André Bonard and Benoît Pochoire.

Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

SARAFINA (15): South African hit musical, exuberantly filmed with Laila Khumalo (the original) and Westcott Goldberg. Directed by James Low.

Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

SINGLES (12): The love problems of Seattle's young men. Engaging, up-to-date, and nicely portrayed. John Seabright, Campbell Scott, Marc D'Amico, Winter-Downer, Cameron Crowe.

Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

SOFT-PO HARD SHOULDERS (15): London to Glasgow with a love. Hair (Peter Capaldi), a prim miss (Elaine Collins), and too many whistles for content. Directed by Stephen Dillane.

Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

CURRENT

CHAPLIN (12): A pulled impression by Robert Downey Jr., but Richard Attenborough's biographical epic

Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

ART GALLERIES

THE WORLD OF DRAWING AND WATERCOLOUR: The important show of watercolours between 1750 and 1850 marks the most important work done in watercolour. Some 200 works by the most famous British watercolourists make the point irresistibly.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

Beginning of a two-week residency at London's leading jazz venue, Ronnie Scott's, Fri-Sat, W1 01-476 3441, until April 12.

TAG THEATRO: One of the finest exponents of contemporary dance, the Venezuelan group visits London for the International Mime Festival giving the world premiere of *La Zancapa*, a witty tale of a fairy's attempt to alter the social order. Dates in Manchester, Oxford and Bristol. Edinburgh to follow.

Tag Theatre, South Bank, SE1 01-476 3441, until Feb 7.

ENZO ANGILERI: The master of quick-change cabaret, from *Quelques-uns m'ont aimé* to *Madame*.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

REGIONAL

BRISTOL: Since his debut album in 1984, the powerful jazz balladeer Carol Kidd has been a leading light in the Bristol jazz scene. *Body & Mind* showing them on

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY: Lark in the hospital common room; mutton outraged; doctors humiliated. Play Group's new play, *It Runs in the Family*, is a comedy about the family.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN: Tremendously glossy production of the 1975 film, it concerns the values of Manuel Puig's novel but Orla Reynolds makes a striking impact.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

LOST IN YONKERS: Rosemary Harris in a comedy about a woman who loses her mind. *Lost in Yonkers* is a comedy about a woman who loses her mind.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

MISSISSIPPI: Sharon Glass and Bill Patterson in a comedy about a woman who loses her mind. *Mississippi* is a comedy about a woman who loses her mind.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

OUR BOSS: Peter O'Toole in a comedy about a woman who loses her mind. *Our Boss* is a comedy about a woman who loses her mind.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Anna Carter, Hannah Gordon and Martin Shaw in Weller's "sadder clatter".

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

NEW RELEASES

SEAN ENTERS DOGS (18): Film crew follows loquacious film on his rounds. Chester Connell agrees to bring new Belgian film-makers Remy Belin, André Bonard and Benoît Pochoire.

Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

SARAFINA (15): South African hit musical, exuberantly filmed with Laila Khumalo (the original) and Westcott Goldberg. Directed by James Low.

Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

SINGLES (12): The love problems of Seattle's young men. Engaging, up-to-date, and nicely portrayed. John Seabright, Campbell Scott, Marc D'Amico, Winter-Downer, Cameron Crowe.

Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

SOFT-PO HARD SHOULDERS (15): London to Glasgow with a love. Hair (Peter Capaldi), a prim miss (Elaine Collins), and too many whistles for content. Directed by Stephen Dillane.

Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

CURRENT

CHAPLIN (12): A pulled impression by Robert Downey Jr., but Richard Attenborough's biographical epic

Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 01-476 3441. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 4pm, 14pm.

ART GALLERIES

THE WORLD OF DRAWING AND WATERCOLOUR: The important show of watercolours between 1750 and 1850 marks the most important work done in watercolour. Some 200 works by the most famous British watercolourists make the point irresistibly.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

ERIC GILL: The first to concentrate on Gill's important sculptures, this show presents him as one of the most brilliant of all stone-carvers. The works combining Gothic and religious elements are wonderfully chiseled.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, London, EC2A 4PU (01-476 3441). Mon, Wed, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, Tue, 10am-5pm, until Feb 7.

something of a high, the New First. *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First. *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First. *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First.

LEADS: The 150th anniversary of the death of John Seton. *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First. *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First. *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First.

THE PRISONER OF ZEMBO: David. *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First. *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First. *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First.

THE REBEL AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE: *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First. *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First. *Antony & Cleopatra*, also New First.

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THEATRE: A new play about a famous playwright in love fails to impress Jeremy Kingston

One sister more trouble than three

THIS is a play where the male character can say, "I'll meet Gorky at the Imperial Hotel and we'll call on Tolstoy." But even though the author, Jovanita Bach, lives in California, where famous artists in biopics often talk that way — "Hi, Chopin!" — "Hi, Liszt!" — in the context of Chekhov's life in Yalta this remark feels appropriate as well as germane to the plot.

The plot, well, part of that feels right and proper to the playwright's life as we know it, and other parts less so. Bach certainly crams a lot of events into one late autumn, said to be 1901. Anton at the age of 42 has secretly married his leading actress, Olga Knipper, and awaits the right moment to break the news to his devoted sister. Quick as quick, the unseen Olga encourages a miscarriage so that nothing will hinder her triumph in *Three Sisters*.

Cough, cough, goes Anton as he sits struggling to finish *The Cherry Orchard*. Maria provides around, giving away lamp fuel and hiding candles so that her foolish brother will not go through the night. Reading his letters, too, and destroying Olga's before they reach him.

Who is to say how much of this emerged from the author's imagination? A fair bit, I should say, to judge from the reference in a programme note to a heated letter from Olga to Maria "possibly destroyed by her, as the letter has not been found." We all know the problem. Think of those love

Chekhov and Maria
Theatro Technis,
Camden Town

letters Chekhov wrote to the Tsarina: none of them has been found either.

There is such a matter as imagined truth, however: where invented material nonetheless feels correct. Many of Bach's notions do possess this quality until they are wrecked on the undeniable fact that Chekhov made Maria his literary executor. Would he have done so, after all the treacheries that Bach details? I think not.

Richard Duden's portrayal of the ailing playwright is physically convincing: he manages the forbearance and gentle irony too, though he is required to be oddly unaware of his sister's incestuous passion. Emily Richard makes this obvious from the start. "I wish you all the best," she says, fighting back the tears, hands nervously fluttering over her cheeks.

The trouble is, neither her character nor the play contains enough theatrical surprises. The only real example comes when Anton asks her to read Madam Ranevskaya's declaration of reckless love and, as Maria stands trembling beside him, murmurs Olga's name. Peter Crane's direction uses the stage well enough, but the general impression — unlike Anton's handkerchiefs — is bloodless.

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Kenneth Rea talks to the Czech writer and actor-clown Bolek Polivka, who is appearing in London this weekend

Survivor behind the enemy lines

A freezing night in Rotterdam and most of the population is curled up in front of the box watching an important football match. Bolek Polivka and his company of five are on stage, performing his play *Mickey Mouse, Don Quixote and Others* to an ecstatic audience of 35. "People don't come to the theatre much in Rotterdam," explains the local manager apologetically. "Torture!" Polivka tells me over a beer after the show. "Football players are the worst enemies of the theatre."

Enemies are very important to Polivka. In his native Czechoslovakia, he managed to elude the communist regime for more than 20 years, using his theatre to provoke discussion about the establishment but always being reluctantly tolerated by the authorities because of his international reputation. Unlike his fellow playwright Václav Havel, he was never imprisoned, though the censorship laws brought him near to jail often enough.

The title of his one-man play *The Survivor* (seen in London four years ago) might well apply to him: after the revolution he was even nominated for the National Assembly. Today, in the newly-proclaimed Czech Republic, he is a national hero and when he performs, people have been known to camp outside the theatre in sleeping bags. On Saturday, *Mickey Mouse, Don Quixote and Others* comes to the Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of the London International Mime Festival.

Like the protagonist in his most celebrated play, *The Jester and the Queen* (highlight of the 1990 mime festival), Polivka has used humour to say things others dare not utter. "I don't know if it is because of my Czech origin, but I like to make fun of tragic things," he says. "We did that a lot during the regime, when there were very deep troubles. In Czechoslovakia a sense of hu-

mour helped you to survive." Polivka claims that his plays have never been directly political and that he had no interest in satirising the weaknesses of incumbent presidents. "My plays are about the human condition," he says. "If there is a theme running through them I would say it is that all the characters I play are all losers. One divorces the same woman twice, another is a thief and a drunkard, the survivor is all alone. And of course there is Don Quixote. Next time I must do something about winners."

The plays, however, are nothing without Polivka himself, undoubtedly one of today's greatest actor-clowns.

you don't force it. The audience becomes a partner. Then you can do many things. If it's the enemy there's not much you can do at all. Most actors are terrified of forgetting their lines or making a mistake, or of something going wrong on stage. I love it when something unexpected happens. In fact I often try to keep it in for the next performances."

For all their apparent roughness and affected tackiness, Polivka's productions are such fragile creations that they often leave the performers teetering on a tightrope. Everything appears to be improvised, at times even chaotic, though a second viewing reveals that every detail has been meticulously rehearsed.

Then there is Polivka's habit of breaking out of the action to poke fun at the allusions of theatre. He will interrupt a scene to discuss Brecht's alienation effect, thereby cunningly demonstrating the very technique. In *Mickey Mouse, Don Quixote and Others*, when Sancho expresses his grief that his master has been injured on the windmill, Polivka leaps up and replays the scene several times, each in a different acting style, gleefully sending up everything from method to melodrama. This piece is especially precarious because it is a play within a play, acted out by the inmates of a clinic for alcoholics.

It is also Polivka's first play since the revolution. Have the new-found freedoms left him tilting against windmills? "We still have problems enough," he declares with enthusiasm. "In this first wave of freedom, people think they'll be able to have everything. But now we also have all the problems of democracy — so there is greed and separatism in Czechoslovakia. And people are looking to the theatre to debate that."

"One of my director friends said to me after the revolution, 'Bolek, what shall we do? We've lost the enemy!' I said to him, 'You'll see. We shall find the enemy — many enemies!'"

'Most actors are terrified of things going wrong. I love it when the unexpected happens'

Outwardly he may not seem to owe much to the world of mime, but he uses his body like a mask to say it all with deceptive ease. His ragged buffoon in *The Jester and the Queen*, towering over the throne like an eagle poised to kill, was an unforgettable image. And his outrageous Quixote — a lanky figure with a false nose, limp beard, a moustache that points in several directions at once and padded shoulders, all balanced on absurdly high platform shoes — captures brilliantly the extravagance of the noble fool who dares to chase his ideals.

But Polivka's greatest quality is the extraordinary rapport he has with his spectators. He can have an audience of a thousand in the palm of his hand within minutes. It is not just his laid-back drollery and the ever-present twinkle in the eye. It is more to do with the sheer joy of playing that he learnt from his father, also a respected actor-clown, in Czech amateur theatricals.

"For me, theatre is a kind of conversation or discussion —



Bolek Polivka's play, *Mickey Mouse, Don Quixote and Others*: "I don't know if it's my Czech origin, but I like to make fun of tragic things," he says. "In Czechoslovakia a sense of humour helped you to survive"

DANCE REVIEW

In the best of bad taste

People have always accused the Bolshoi of bad taste. "I was brought up in St Petersburg," George Balanchine wrote about the Kirov. "The style of dancing there was very strict and precise. At the same time, in Moscow, 600 kilometres away, the style of dancing was close to that of a circus performance."

That sense of circus is accentuated by the Albert Hall's proportions, and by Yuri Grigorovich's choreography. His overblown manner seemed more acceptable in *Ivan the Terrible*, a condensed version of which opened the third of the company's compilation programmes, even if its sinister grotesque is at times not far from the laughable. But it matches the hysteria of the score, composed by Prokofiev for Eisenstein's film.

Alexander Vetrov, one of the Bolshoi's more exaggerated dancers, is well suited to the role of Ivan, making his belated entrance in skinny black, a bent-over silhouette like a tarantula. Alla Mikhailchenko as the Tsarina Anastasia dances a lonely solo which underlines her saintly vulnerability. Warring battalions of soldiers, messengers of victory and reapers of death provide a spectacular opening, like some demented version of the Edinburgh Tattoo.

One virtue of the choreography is its symbolism, communicating situations through groupings and postures. But anyone new to it will have problems following the plot.

No such problems with the Kingdom of Sweets portion from *The Nutcracker*. The pas de deux allowed Galina Stepanenko to parade her unshakable pirouettes and Sergei Filin his reliable partnering. But with the highlights from *Legend of Love*, an early Grigorovich work (1961), we were back in more baffling territory. It presents a complicated triangle in which the hero sacrifices love for the common good. But why or how, we neither knew nor cared, given the interminable, trite choreography, set to a Khachaturian-inspired score by Arif Melikov.

NADINE MEISNER

TELEVISION REVIEW: Debra Craine on an ambitious international survey of dance

No mean feet in prospect

Be it ritual, religion, entertainment, art or simply for the sheer fun of it, the whole world dances. We may not all be a Sylvie Guillem or a Michael Jackson, but each of us can use movement to express our emotional being or to intensify our sense of being alive. From the baby in the womb to the elderly couple on the hotel dance floor, from the children learning bhangra in Birmingham to the stars of the Bolshoi Ballet, everybody shares a fundamental urge for physical self-expression.

Such is the power of dance, the theme and the title of the first episode in BBC 2's new eight-part series, called *Dancing*. For seven more weeks, the producers will take viewers from the sweat of the disco club to the contemplative hush of the Japanese Kabuki theatre, on a global journey designed to show that there is more to dance than tutus and Madonna videos.

In last night's leisurely hour-long opener we moved from youth dancing in America to Broadway and Covent Garden, with stops in India and St Petersburg. Our guides were



Wim Vandekeybus: video techniques in choreography

the dancers themselves. Jacques d'Amboise, former star of New York City Ballet and now director of the National Dance Institute of America, began by telling us that dance begins in the womb, when a mother's heartbeat is the first pulse we hear. Certainly the children of his institute were proof that the urge to move to a beat is both basic and transcendent.

Their joy of movement became a sophisticated art form

in the person of Gregg Burge, a Broadway performer of dazzling ability whose filmed sequences linked the programme several notches. The classical pas de deux is one of the most refined yet forceful expressions of emotion in all art, and here Royal Ballet stars Irek Mukhamedov and Viviana Durante illustrated this beautifully in a glorious duet from MacMillan's *Manon*.

The link between the spiritual and the physical is even

stronger in the East, as the programme pointed out. In bharata natyam, the classical Indian dance form, participants make an offer to the deity before class begins. For those transplanted from their cultural roots, such as Vijay Mehay who teaches the traditional Indian dance form of bhangra in Birmingham, dance can also be a link with a distant heritage.

Cultural cross-fertilisation is both welcome and inevitable; witness the polyglot dance of popular music videos. The camera itself offers the added possibility of playing with the very time and space of the art form. The programme showed how the raw movement of the Belgian new-wave Wim Vandekeybus's choreography is both refracted and concentrated on video.

Dancing has taken six years to make, with filming in more than a dozen countries. The creators of the series — a co-production between the BBC, American public television (13/WNET) and RM Arts — are clearly trying to embrace the universality of dance. I only hope their brief is not too exhaustive.

UNBEARABLY EXCITING

MICHAEL COVENTRY THE OBSERVER

BILL KENWRIGHT PRESENTS

THE ALMEIDA THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION

PAUL EDDINGTON HAROLD PINTER

NO MAN'S LAND

BY HAROLD PINTER

GAWN GRAINGER DOUGLAS HODGE

DESIGNER BOB CROWLEY

FIGHTING MARK HENDERSON

DIRECTOR DAVID LEVEAUX

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Heseltine flies the export flag in Saudi Arabia

British exports of non-defence goods to Saudi Arabia rose a fifth in 1992

By COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE
CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade secretary, is seeking to refocus attention on Saudi Arabia, whose oil-rich economy is still expanding at about 9 per cent a year.

Mr Heseltine's three-day visit to Saudi Arabia last week, besides beating the drum for British non-defence exports, was designed to give political push to the civil offset deals that form part of the Al Yamamah defence contract between Riyadh and London, a deal expected to be worth £30 billion in the coming decade.

British Aerospace last year saw the long-awaited signing of its £20 billion phase two Al Yamamah contract postponed. The Saudi government has disbursed about £10 billion under the scheme, the first part of which was concluded in 1985, when Mr Heseltine was defence secretary. Most of the funds have gone to BAe, as main contractor, for 72 Tornado combat aircraft and trainer plans. Last summer, Riyadh shelved the huge Sulayli air base project, worth an estimated £8 billion to £10 billion, with a view to directing more resources into aircraft purchases.

Jonathan Aitken, the junior defence minister, described Al Yamamah, which supports 30,000 jobs in Britain, as a programme that will "flow on and on". Hiccups in the programme have, however, caused concern. An official reassurance from Riyadh in October made clear that Saudi Arabia remained "totally committed" to Al Yamamah.

British exports to Saudi Arabia in the first 11 months last year totalled £1.80 billion, against £2.23 billion for all of 1991. A fall in Tornado sales was the main factor behind the decline, but exports overall held up well, especially in consumer goods. The British share of exports to Saudi Arabia from the developed world fell from 18.6 to 15.6 per cent last year, but Britain held on to second place behind



Fighting: Michael Heseltine targeted civilian spin-off deals from the defence contract

America. Saudi Arabia is Britain's biggest market outside the developed economies and ranks eleventh overall among overseas markets. By far the largest economy in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia has the world's largest oil reserves and has stepped up output since the Gulf war.

Mr Heseltine, whose cabinet post gives him responsibility for the civil trade, said on his return from Saudi Arabia that non-defence trade between the two countries rose 20 per cent last year, helping limit the impact of declining defence sales. Defence goods only reached 40 per cent of total exports at their peak.

Although the Saudi government is seeking to restrain public spending, Mr

Heseltine said there was widespread growth in the private sector. Not that winning contracts in Saudi Arabia would be other than "tough", Mr Heseltine said. "Nobody should think that they will be getting any handouts. It is a very competitive market, but fast-growing." He saw the lower pound as giving British firms a useful competitive edge.

Opportunities and finance were nevertheless there, he said, citing targets in traditionally strong sectors, such as oil and gas, as well as downstream developments in petrochemicals. Healthcare and education were other fields in which British companies could make inroads, and there was still business to be won in

civil engineering. Mr Heseltine's visit was primarily intended to foster joint ventures between British and Saudi firms and stimulate inward investment and technology transfer to Saudi Arabia in keeping with the offset programme.

In Jeddah, he laid the foundation stone for a drug plant, a £10.5 million joint venture between Glaxo and a Saudi partner, the first project to come to fruition under the offset scheme, although 15 projects have been submitted for approval. The Glaxo plant will produce some of the company's best-selling drugs, which were previously imported to Saudi Arabia.

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Financial services firms optimistic

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FINANCIAL services companies are predicting improved business during the next three months. They expect individuals to regain their economic confidence and start making new financial commitments.

The findings, contained in a joint Confederation of British Industry survey with Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants, show renewed expectations of an upturn even though optimism in the previous survey, in September, proved unfounded.

The fourth quarter of last year saw a continued decline in financial services activity. Banks and building societies reported the sharpest decline. Stockbrokers, fund managers and venture capitalists, however, all saw business improve as shares maintained their bull run.

Together with insurance brokers and general insurance companies, securities-related companies remain optimistic about the prospects for the next three months.

The survey, carried out in the two weeks to mid-December, found that firms and companies had succeeded in winning markedly wider margins by putting up commissions, fees and premiums.

Operating costs declined for the fifth quarter in a row as companies shed staff. The trend of cutting staff and cost reduction is expected to continue.

However, Sudhir Jankar, of the CBI, said profitability remains "an area of real concern" for financial services companies. Most are concerned about the growth of problem loans, which often become bad debts later.

This is expected to be the biggest single brake on a return to acceptable levels of profitability by many of the firms surveyed.

Companies say their competitiveness has improved against that of overseas rivals in the fourth quarter. However, many now expect increasing domestic competition to have an impact on their operations.

Eurotherm gathers fruits of shake-up

IN A quiet week for corporate results, Eurotherm International, the control equipment group headed by Dr Jack Leonard, is one of the biggest companies reporting.

Past reorganisation is paying off for the group and final pre-tax profits, due tomorrow, are likely to advance to £14.5 million, against £7.2 million last time, according to Patrick Wellington at NatWest Securities. Earnings are predicted to rise to 21.5p from 10.6p a share, and an increased dividend of 8.3p against 7.2p is forecast.

Eurotherm's substantial rationalisation programme, initiated after Claes Hultman joined the group as chief executive 18 months ago, is yielding rewards. Staff numbers have been reduced by about a fifth, the prices of some products increased and some lower-margin businesses eliminated. In addition, positive cash flow should help to reduce the group's gearing to about 15 per cent, against 30 per cent last time.

TODAY

Interim: Abstract Scotland Investment, Aerospace Engineering, British Thomson Holdings, Jupiter European Investment Trust, Peel Holdings, Photo-Me International, Real Time Control.

TOMORROW

Barclays de Zoete Wedd expects Eurocamp, the self-drive camping holidays group, to turn in final pre-tax profits of £9.4 million, against £6.9 million last time. Market forecasts range from £9 million to £9.5 million. An increased dividend of 9.7p compared with 8.5p is expected.

In view of shake-ups in the holiday industry, analysts will be interested to hear how Eurocamp is doing. The company's fast-growing German business is not yet thought to have been affected by the slowdown in the German economy.

AIM Group, the specialist manufacturer of aircraft interiors based in Southampton, is forecast to report a small rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £1.2 million, against £1.1 million last time, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. A maintained interim dividend of 1.5p is expected.

Interim: AIM Group, Claythorpe, Deagen Holdings, Garmore American Securities, Gold Fields SA, Havelin, HJ Joel Gold Mining, Randfontein Estates, Western Areas Gold Mining.

Finals: Davenport Vernon, Eurocamp, Eurotherm International, Havelin, Arthur Lee & Sons, Ryan Hotels, Soundtracs, St David's Investment Trust, Yorkshire-Tyne Tees TV.

Economic statistics: CBI survey of distributive trades (December), public sector borrowing requirement (December).

WEDNESDAY

Resort Hotels, the mid-market hotels operator headed by Robert Feld, is expected to unveil a relatively resilient set of first-half figures.

Simon Johnson, hotels and leisure analyst at Kleinwort Benson, has pencilled in interim pre-tax profits of £3.2 million for Resort, against £2.9 million last time. The interim dividend should be maintained at 1.2p. Market forecasts range from £3 million to £3.5 million.

Analysts will be concentrating on prospects, as well as progress from the group's relatively recent tentative move into the recession-hit London hotel scene. They will also be interested to hear how Resort, which runs a three-star network of hotels, plans to bring in its satellite business, County Resort Hotels.

Electron House, the fran-

chised distributor of computer products and electronic components, is expected to turn in first-half pre-tax profits of about £800,000, against £595,000 last time, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. An unchanged interim dividend of 1p is forecast.

Kumick, the troubled fruit machines to nursing homes group, is forecast to slide to a final pre-tax loss of £5.8 million, against profits of £12.4 million last time, according to BZW. No dividend is expected, against 1.4p last time. Market forecasts have a wide spread, ranging from losses of £3 million to losses of £10 million, depending on the level of provisions.

In a bid to remove acute short-term financing problems, Kumick last year split off most of the care side of its business, putting it under the umbrella of a new holding company, Goldborough, in conjunction with NatWest Ventures.

Interim: Beales Hunter, Colorvision, Electron House, Eurocamp, Dual Investment Trust, Jyvis Hotel Group, Olin Convertible Trust (21), Matthew Clarke and Sons, William Ramsay & Son, Resort Hotels.

Finals: Kumick, RCO Holdings. Economic statistics: Retail sales (December).

THURSDAY

Interim: Rubicon Group, Star Computer Group.

Finals: Contra-Cyclical Investment Trust, Hill & Smith Holdings, London & Clydeside, London Scottish Bank.

Agm's: Bases, Canadian Imperial Bank, Fairline Boats, Henderson, Strata Inc, River Plate & General Ltd. Economic statistics: British Chambers of Commerce quarterly economic survey, labour market statistics, unemployment and unfilled vacancies (December, provisional); average earnings indices (November, provisional); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes, index of production (November).

FRIDAY

Interim: Richmond Oil & Gas, Park Food Group, Shield Group.

Finals: Deutscher Investment Corporation, Malvern UK Index Trust, Selective Assets Trust.

PHILIP PANGALOS

Supermarkets face space glut

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

SATURATION among Britain's supermarkets may have been reached. Capacity in food retailing has grown faster than the market in the past three years, according to the latest report by Verdict, the retail consultants.

Sales, in volume terms, have grown only 1 per cent, while floorspace has increased near-

ly 8 per cent. Richard Hyman, director of Verdict, says: "Although the economic downturn has had an impact, market maturity is an increasingly significant influence on trading. It is no wonder leading food retailers are resorting to lower prices in order to attract business."

With the major chains open-

ing 80 new outlets a year, finding sites without competition is an increasingly difficult task and will inevitably erode margins. "I'm not saying retailers won't make money," says Mr Hyman. "But the spectacular money they have made in the past will not go on ad infinitum. We will see more modest sales and profits growth in food retailing from now on."

But there is some good news for the major supermarkets. The report claims they have increased their share of the market since the mid-eighties from 20 per cent to 30 per cent — largely at the expense of specialists and smaller chains. Sainsbury, chaired by David Sainsbury, is the market leader with 11.7 per cent, closely followed by Tesco with 10.9 per cent. Argyl, which owns Sainsbury, has 7.1 per cent. The biggest improvement came from Kwik Save, which now has a share of 3.4 per cent after opening more than 200 stores in the past five years.

Verdict also claims that recent price promotions by the big chains are a response to the rapid rise of discounters, such as Aldi and Netto, but will not herald the beginnings of a price war.

Tax increases accompanied by lower base rates, and "underfunding", are on the agenda for the Budget in March. These measures would be bullish for the prime minister's warnings against tax increases.

So less draconian measures look more likely, and more sensible, with tax rises totaling perhaps about £5 billion. A more politically-acceptable package might see VAT extended only to certain "luxury" food items; big petrol duty rises and a 1 per cent rise in NI rates would help make up the total. The RPI would be temporarily increased, but this comes at a good time, since it co-incides with the effect of mortgage rate cuts, so the

items raises over £17 billion, according to the Treasury, though less on estimates from the Institute of Fiscal Studies. This is not compatible with the prime minister's warnings against tax increases.

Active underfunding could also provide a stimulus. There would be fewer medium and long gilt issues, with the shortfall made up by issue of short gilts and, perhaps, bills. Bank and building society

GILT-EDGED

headline rate could be kept below 4 per cent this year.

A Budget of this type should allow base rates to reach about 5 per cent, helped by the increased chance of an agreement on the German solidarity pact, which seems to be opening the way for a cut in the Bundesbank's Lombard and discount rates.

The Chancellor seems unconvinced. His evidence to the select committee implies concern that yields on short gilts and bills may go up, rather than yields on longer

maturities coming down. Another worry is that the banks might decide to curtail risky private loans further in favour of the increased supply of riskless short government papers.

Given this scepticism, a move to underfunding looks doubtful. But the switch to tighter fiscal, easier money policy looks more likely, allowing lower base rates and being helpful to the gilt market.

None of this even starts to tackle the UK's structural problems. The UK has tried to be a low-cost production centre in Europe, a dangerous strategy when true cheap labour in China and Mexico undercuts the UK by a factor of 10. Global leadership in innovation is the only way to break out of the low-wage, rising unemployment spiral. The fact that such issues are ignored in favour of a debate over raising VAT or changing funding rules, shows how bankrupt of vision UK policymaking has become.

Rational ideas are needed, and here is a suggestion. Create companies that can charge electronic tolls on UK roads. Developing and installing the technology will take five to ten years, but the PSBR can be slashed within two or three years using the proceeds of floating these companies, whose market value should exceed £50 billion. This technology will be one of the explosive growth markets over the next decade.

Without policies of this type, the medium-growth outlook for the UK looks to be one of the lowest in the industrialised world, with the obvious bearish implications for public finances, gilts and equities.

GILES KEATING

Credit Suisse First Boston



Market leader: David Sainsbury has 11.7 per cent of trade

Vision needed for the road ahead

BRITISH FUNDS									
Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Div	Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Div
(£m)	p	%	p	p	(£m)	p	%	p	p
SHORTS (under 5 years)									
600 Fund 9/9/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01	5777 Times 9/9/2002	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01
900 Times 9/9/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01	2300 Times 10/9/2002	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01
1000 Times 10/9/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01	443 Fund 3/9/1999-04	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01
1100 Times 11/9/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01	3012 Corp 9/9/2004	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01
1200 Times 12/9/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01	1600 Times 11/9/2004-05	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01
1300 Times 13/9/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01	4842 Corp 9/9/2005	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01
1400 Times 14/9/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01	2300 Times 12/9/2005-06	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01
1500 Times 15/9/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
1600 Times 16/9/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
1700 Times 17/9/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
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3100 Times 31/9/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
3200 Times 1/10/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
3300 Times 2/10/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
3400 Times 3/10/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
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3600 Times 5/10/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
3700 Times 6/10/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
3800 Times 7/10/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
3900 Times 8/10/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
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6100 Times 30/10/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
6200 Times 31/10/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
6300 Times 1/11/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
6400 Times 2/11/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
6500 Times 3/11/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
6600 Times 4/11/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					
6700 Times 5/11/1992	100.0	6.01	6.18	6.01					

ECONOMIC VIEW

Lowering the franc would raise Europe's credibility

Anatole Kaletsky believes the present efforts to shore up France's currency against the mark are a battle against equilibrium

Samuel Johnson once said that in politics, "patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel". In economic policy, the last refuge of a scoundrel, or at least of a dangerous humbug, is "credibility". The British government tried to destroy the economy last year "to win credibility" for sterling. Now the zealous of economic credibility are regrouping in the central banks of Europe, just four months after White Wednesday's rout. The Bank of France, the German government and even, perhaps, a dominant faction in the Bundesbank seem to believe the most important historical challenge for Europe is to defend the French franc's exchange rate against the mark. This is a battle not for some short-term economic advantage, or the vanity of a few politicians, but for the credibility of the European ideal. In the words of Jean-Claude Trichet, the permanent secretary of the French treasury: "The ERM represents the magnetism of Europe. It is our duty from a historical point of view to cope with the present challenges, preserve the ERM and reinforce European construction. The challenges of eastern Europe are a reason for reinforcing the unity of western Europe, to create a strong pillar for the prosperity of Europe as a whole."

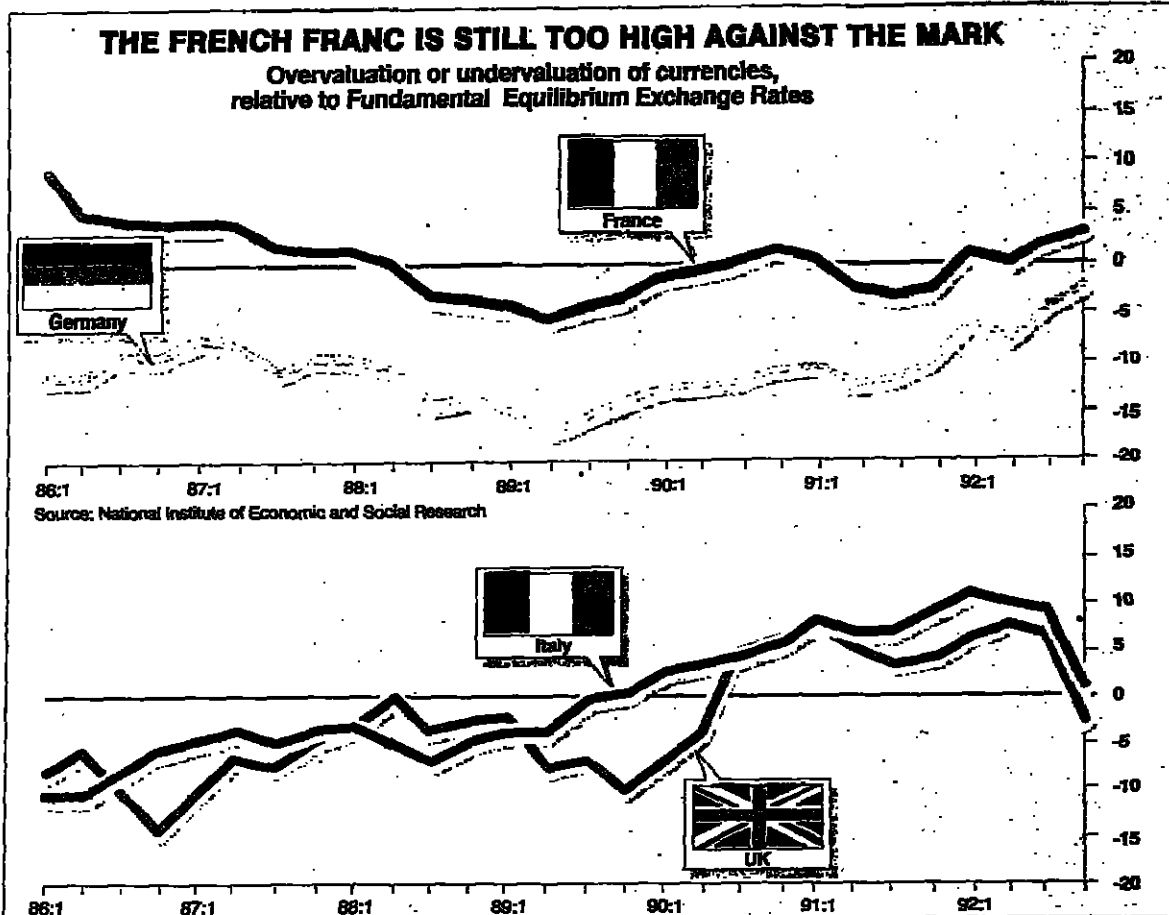
Even George Soros, the speculator who broke the Bank of England on White Wednesday, seems awed by the spirit of history when he contemplates the shining ideal of "FFr3.43 to the mark". Supporting M. Trichet, he declared in Frankfurt: "If the franc were floated today it would be the end of the ERM and perhaps the end of the European Community."

To judge by such comments, the French authorities have already triumphed in their battle for credibility. So why is the franc still persistently weak, even with French interest rates still at 11.5 per cent? The official explanation is that the French-German axis still not quite credible enough. But there is another possible explanation.

Perhaps the grand historical argument for defending the present exchange rate is wrong. If there is to be a monetary, and ultimately a political, union between France and Germany — and I believe there should be — it must be based on an exchange rate that reflects the competitive strength of the two economies as closely as possible, and that the financial markets and business communities of both countries readily accept.

Is this likely to be the rate that happened to be picked by the European monetary committee on January 12, 1987 (the date of the last full ERM realignment)? There are at least three reasons for supposing otherwise.

First, German unification was never



anticipated when the present ERM bands were set. If Ffr3.35 was the right central parity in 1987, then, almost by definition, it is wrong today and will continue to be wrong throughout the next decade, as Germany gradually adjusts to reunification.

Second, there is the market's judgment. The franc has traded above its ERM mid-point of Ffr3.35 to the mark for just seven out of the 300 weeks since January 1987, as David Morrison of Goldman Sachs has pointed out. This performance contrasts strongly with that of the Belgian franc, which has often risen above the mark after being devalued in the 1987 realignment. Yet all this time, French interest rates have been well above Germany's, suggesting deep scepticism in the market on the sustainability of the franc-mark rate.

Third, there is the fundamental reason why that scepticism is likely to persist, however many French jobs, businesses and even governments are destroyed in the battle for credibility of the franc fort. This is the strong macro-economic evidence to suggest the franc is still overvalued against the mark.

Central bankers often say that the franc should, if anything, be revalued against the mark, because France has had lower inflation than Germany since 1987. This begs the question of whether the franc was set at the right rate in 1987, a question that takes on monumental importance if this rate is to become the bedrock for a permanent monetary union.

Although inflation in France is lower than it is in Germany, this does not prove the country's economic fundamentals are "strong". A favourable inflation performance can always be

achieved by squeezing domestic demand with high interest rates and tolerating mass unemployment. As long as French unemployment and interest rates remain much above Germany's, the currency link between the two countries will be neither convincing nor soundly based. France has been in economic stagnation for three years, with unemployment at 10 per cent and showing no signs of falling. Germany is only just cooling down from an unsustainable boom, with unemployment, even including the eastern Länder, at only 7 per cent.

Analysing the complex relationships between exchange rates, inflation and unemployment is not an exact science. Nevertheless, when the markets suggest that two currencies are out of kilter — as they have consistently with the franc and mark — economic models can help to cross-check this judgment.

For several years now, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research has calculated fundamental equilibrium exchange rates (Feers) for all the main currencies. Feers are exchange rates that would allow each country to maintain a permanently sustainable current account position and a level of unemployment compatible with stable, low inflation. These Feer calculations (see charts) suggest the French franc has become more competitive since 1987, but it was then clearly overvalued. Today, there would have to be a franc-mark realignment of 5 to 10 per cent (depending on movements in other currencies) to bring the two currencies into fundamental equilibrium.

An overvaluation of 5 to 10 per cent

may not seem very great, considering the large margin for error in such calculations, but they cannot be ignored. The long history of market strains between the franc and the mark, the challenges of reunification in Germany and the persistence of unemployment in France all suggest the franc is too high. So does the reaction to the events of last September — in Germany, the government, and even the business community seemed pleased about the revaluation. In France, there have been growing squeals of anguish about the threat to French industry and exports posed by "competitive devaluations" in Italy, Britain and Spain. Finally, the way the pound and lira have both stabilised very near their Feers since leaving the ERM, is at least suggestive.

All of these observations point to the same conclusion. If France and Germany are serious about creating a stable and credible monetary union, they must err on the side of a slightly undervalued franc and a slightly overvalued mark — not the other way round.

This seems to me the clinching argument in favour of a small devaluation of the franc against the mark, to be followed by an accelerated move towards full monetary union between France and Germany, well ahead of the Maastricht timetable. Such a realignment, provided it was performed in an orderly manner as part of an accelerated move towards monetary union, would not destroy the ERM or threaten the European Community. On the contrary, it could bolster the plans for monetary and political union in Europe with real economic credibility instead of rhetorical humbug.

TEMPUS

Cash is king in exile

LOGIC dictates that cash bids should be in fashion in the coming months. With interest rates at their lowest in 15 years, borrowing is cheap and there are still undervalued assets to be found, even though market p/e ratios have risen to their highest since 1987.

The cost of debt is competitive with the cost of equity and a few large cash acquisitions might ease the problem of funding an impending avalanche of gilt sales and rights issues.

Unfortunately, there is not much cash about. Wracked by three years of recession and punitive real interest rates, corporate Britain is still struggling under a £100 billion debt burden, much of it amassed in the late eighties, when it seemed so sensible to fund acquisitions and capital spending out of bank borrowing. Cash has continued to pour out of many businesses in the past two years to pay for redundancies and rationalisation. Today, numerous companies can scarcely service their current debt and dividends, let alone any new commitments.

Indebted companies will find it difficult to fund large acquisitions. Lashed by the flood of bad debts in the past three years, the banks have naturally become risk averse. Financing acquisitions is low on their list of priorities until their own balance sheets recover. In the absence of UK buyers, we may see cash-rich

overseas companies filling the breach, although they are likely to wait for more concrete signs of a recovery in the economy before they produce their cheque books.

Only 11 companies in the FT-SE 100 have net cash. Some such as GUS, ABF and Rentokil are so deeply conservative that they are hardly likely to stun the market with a lightning strike. They have the clothes but do not want to go to the ball.

Others such as Wellcome and Glaxo have modest net cash positions, but need them to fund heavy research and development commitments. Of the remainder, De La Rue, with net cash equal to almost half shareholders' funds, could turn predator if only it found a suitable candidate. Carlton Communications could be persuaded to bid for a rival television franchise, although it must wait until 1994. As usual, GEC has vast cash reserves. But Lord Weinstock seems to have run out of targets large enough at home, and may have to look abroad for his next move.

Some companies with low debts could be more active, particularly in the retail sector. Kingfisher's gearing has fallen to an estimated 10 per cent, while at Kwik Save it is only 3 per cent. Overall, however, the list of potential cash bidders is unimpressive. Cash may be king, but the king is likely to remain in exile for a while.

Gold price

THERE have been few more appalling investments in the past decade than gold. The metal has lost almost half its real value since 1983, smashing the traditional belief that it is a hedge against inflation.

The gold price is bumping along at a seven-year low of \$327 an ounce, and the market is jittery about further government sales of gold, possibly by Italy. The implications of the Dutch central bank's announcement that it has sold 400 tonnes of its reserves do not seem to have sunk in fully, particularly since dealers believe that more than half of that gold has yet to reach the market.

The plunge in gold prices is more than just a cyclical low point, it has been caused by fundamental changes in the market. A decade ago, most of the gold production

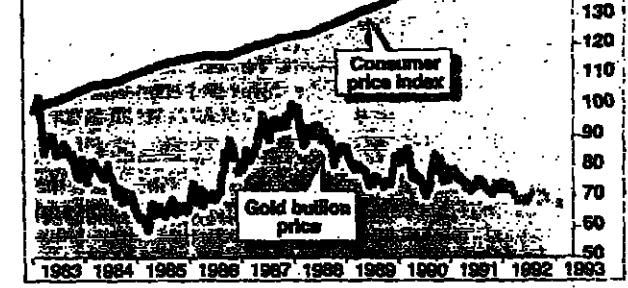
finished up in jewellery in OECD countries. Today, a large proportion is bought as an investment in the Far East, Middle East and India, and is traded freely.

This has increased the market's volatility, frightened professional traders and reduced liquidity. One of the only reasons gold failed to plunge further this week is

that there was not enough liquidity to sell short. If that liquidity returns when traders try to cover short positions, the slide could resume.

For now, the only hope is that brave bull-market traders will pile into the depressed market and force prices up. If other central banks follow Holland, the retreat could become a rout.

GOLD'S HEDGE AGAINST INFLATION FALLS DOWN



Foreign bonds

THE exchange-rate mechanism looks more secure than it has since Black Wednesday. Even the punt has so far managed to avoid devaluation. By last Thursday, markets were so robust that both the Bank of England and the Bank of France were reported to be selling local currency to restore reserves. The pressures are likely to return in time for the French elections in March at the latest, but this respite has turned investors' attention elsewhere, particularly Spain and Italy.

Spanish bonds have been regaining some of their lost ground against the mark, aided by signals from the Bank of Spain that it is seriously trying to avoid another devaluation and will

not make opportunistic cuts in the official rate of 13.75 per cent. By Friday the benchmark ten-year bond was trading on a 12.77 per cent yield, 504 basis points higher than the German equivalent, a fall of more than 50 points since new year. The improvement would have been even sharper if the market was not awash with paper.

This month the Bank of Spain needs to refinance redemptions worth Ptas.800 billion (£10.2 billion), substantially more than the whole of last year. Italian bonds have performed even better. Their yield gap has narrowed to less than 480 basis points. But the market has begun to fret about the turmoil in the Italian government. Add this to the threat

of renewed currency swings, and trading in foreign bonds becomes like playing Russian roulette with five chambers loaded.

Euro Disney?

IF Euro Disney thinks it cannot tempt back French families by jettisoning its American president and replacing him with a Frenchman, even Mickey and Donald could start worrying about job security.

The departure of Robert Fitzpatrick is an implicit admission by Euro Disney that it built the wrong theme park in the wrong location. Now Philippe Bourguignon, his successor, has the unenviable task of adapting it to European tastes to stem losses and the flow of bad publicity.

"The one who taught me the most important things in life was my dog"



Rabbi Lionel Blue talks about his favourite teacher in this Friday's Times Educational Supplement.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Costly detour for The Times

THE impact of the new free trade zone in Europe has been put to the test by Peter Morgan, director general of the Institute of Directors. The test failed — and with unfortunate consequences. Morgan, driving through France with his wife, Sue, on their way to a new year skiing holiday in the French Alps, agreed to a detour via the airport at Lyons, in search of a copy of *The Times* newspaper, since, on that particular Saturday, Morgan was the subject of a *Business Profile* interview. The detour proved fruitless and delayed their ensuing stop at a motorway service station for luncheon. Their car, a Jaguar Sovereign, parked just a few feet from the front door of the restaurant, was ransacked as they ate. "They burst the lock and stole all our bags," Morgan says. "It meant that we arrived at Val d'Isere with just our skis, boots and the clothes we stood up in. Fortunately, I had my credit cards in my pocket so we were able to re-equip ourselves. It was not the best start to our holiday, however, and... as Sue said... but for that diversion to look for a *Times*!"

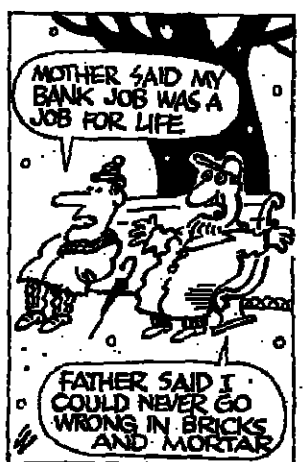
Stormin' Michael

OUR dashing trade secretary, Michael Heseltine, took Saudi Arabia by storm in a meteorological sense last week. Not only did he arrive for a three day visit to Riyadh and Jeddah driving an impressive train of British captains of industry before him, but he also brought with him — to the

perched Arabian sands — a spell of chilly, wet weather of the type more usually associated with British winters. His hosts, delighted at seeing their country's depleted aquifers replenished, were, we understand, convinced that the pluvial period was a good omen for Saudi-British economic ties. British firms must be hoping that Heseltine can now work his rain-making magic again, in yet more arid markets.

Slim pickings

NEW year diets are beginning to bite. Nigel Davies, a gilt trader from merchant bank Leopold Joseph, is determined to survive until the end of January on nothing but a round of tomatoes on toast every evening. "Business lunches are dreadful — a lettuce leaf and a Perrier," he laments. A sympathetic colleague confides: "It's bad for dieting at the moment — the gilt market is so quiet." The team at Barings is being similarly abstemious. Euro-bond trader Paul Grimsey has



organised a diet competition for a dozen competitors who will curb their eating for six weeks. A proportion of each dieter's £25 stake will go to charity, with the remainder going to the dealer who manages to lose the greatest percentage of his body weight. "One or two of them are porkers," admits gilt trader Linda Neal, who, according to her colleagues, has no need of such deprivations.

Lucky properties

THE devaluation of sterling has made United Kingdom property more attractive for foreign investors. But those banks, agents and developers that are hoping to attract funds from Hong Kong should be aware of the importance of *fung shui*, the superstition derived from ancient Chinese texts, which stresses the importance of properties' positions in relation to hospitals, cemeteries, water and myriad other factors. Certain names and numbers are important. The number four, for instance, is considered unlucky. Paul Thornhill, an entrepreneur who places funds on behalf of Hong Kong property investors, says: "The Chinese are very superstitious, and will examine properties carefully to ensure that they are in a good position according to *fung shui* principles." He adds: "It might be necessary to move the odd doorway to accommodate them, but in the end, the Chinese know that, compared to Hong Kong, this UK Incorporated is a pretty stable place for their investments."

CAROL LEONARD

Minority loses out in Ecclesiastical bid for St Andrews

From Mr Richard Green

Sir, I have every sympathy with the views expressed by Mr Sheridan (Letters, January 13). The reason given for making the offer for St Andrews, namely the impact of the Third Council Directive on Non-Life Insurance, does not become effective until 1st July 1994, and it is, therefore, difficult to understand quite why it was necessary to make the offer over Christmas and the New Year, which is a notoriously difficult period during which to contact clients, unless it was a matter of deliberate policy.

The motivation for the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office in making this offer is well documented, but no reference has been made anywhere as to the long term effects that this

bid will have on the minority. In my view they are likely to suffer a reduction in the market rating of their shares as a consequence of their effective disenfranchisement, and also from a more restricted market. The voting rights of the minority would, of course remain unchanged, but in reality they would have very little real power. It could be argued that this is already the case as the EIO already owns 40 per cent of the equity. To an extent this is true, but I do believe that there is a difference, and that shareholders deserve a better price for relinquishing control and losing marketability, particularly as without any takeover provisions, some shareholders face potential gains tax liabilities should they feel uncom-

fortable in remaining as minority shareholders. Collectively, our private clients own over 5 per cent of the shares of St Andrew Trust. It is very sad indeed to see yet another bid for an investment trust company at far less than its real worth. It does nothing to promote wider share ownership of investment trusts by private investors, and it is particularly regrettable in this instance when the directors of the EIO include the chairman of an investment trust company, a former deputy chairman of the Association of Investment Trust Companies, two deans and a bishop. Yours faithfully, RICHARD GREEN, Allied Provincial Securities, Shackleton House, 4 Bantlebridge Lane, SE1.

Barclays and the custody of share certificates

From Mr Alex Tweedie

Sir, Barclays Bank has not introduced new or increased charges for the custody of shareholdings (Mr G. D. R. Oldham, Letters, January 14). Share certificates held by the bank will no longer be valid collateral against a customer's loan once the new paperless system of Taurus is introduced.

The result is that managers must review the form of security on such loans and we allowed a period of 12 months for these reviews to take place in advance of the anticipated introduction of Taurus (previously assumed to be in September this year).

One way that customers can continue to use shares as collateral during the three year transition to Taurus is by transferring them into a Barclays nominee name, for which there is a tariff which

has not been changed since June 1990. This covers the cost of such services as the collection of dividends, notification of capital actions, preparation of tax certificates and valuations.

There is at present no alternative to a full legal charge proposed under Taurus which would not involve, in our opinion, substantial additional administration costs, particularly during transition.

Our review will only affect a small number of our customers who are being asked to discuss the situation with their branch manager to agree the way forward.

Yours faithfully, ALEX TWEEDIE (Managing Director), Barclays Global Securities Services, Barclays Bank plc, 168 Fenchurch Street, EC3.

Savoy shareholders

From C. J. Hayfield

Sir, Your pie chart referring to the Savoy Group (Tempus January 13) is incorrect as you have duplicated the interests of the three children of the late Sir Hugh Wontner. The correct position as shown on page 24 of the 1991 report and accounts is as follows:

Shareholder	% of Shares
Fort PLC	32.75
Fort PLC (via Fort PLC)	14.10
Fort PLC (via Fort PLC)	10.75
Fort PLC (via Fort PLC)	10.75
Fort PLC (via Fort PLC)	10.75
Fort PLC (via Fort PLC)	10.75
Fort PLC (via Fort PLC)	10.75
Fort PLC (via Fort PLC)	10.75
Fort PLC (via Fort PLC)	10.75
Fort PLC (via Fort PLC)	10.75

Other shareholders include Millbourne Investments and Witan Investment Company, both regarded as members of the Savoy Concert Party at the time of the Fort bid. Yours faithfully, C. J. HAYFIELD, 1 Mossway, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

BBC1

- 6.00 **Business Breakfast** (48321) 7.00 **Breakfast News** (89468131)
9.05 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (3013873) 9.45 **Road King**. Game show (s) (3115215)
10.00 **News**. Regional news and weather (4831437) 10.05 **Playdays**. For the very young (s) (s) (2211168)
10.30 **Good Morning**. With Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (34149073)
12.15 **Pebble Mill**. Judi Spiers is joined by the band Go West (s) (3355573) 12.55 **Regional News and Weather** (24022505)
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) Weather (13302)
1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceefax) (s) (5880234) 1.50 **El Dorado** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (1499578)
2.20 **Dr. X**. Repeat of the soap about the oil-rich Ewing family. (Ceefax) (s) (4000383) 3.05 **Family Affairs**. Presented by the mother-and-daughter team of Gloria Hunniford and Caron Keating. Includes advice on better photography (s) (4530321)
3.35 **Squirrell**. Cartoon (7888895) 3.45 **Stoppit and Tidup**. Narrated by Terry Wogan (r) (3726532) 3.50 **Poddington Peas**. Animation (r) (9255750) 3.55 **Radio Roo**. Episode three of the 13-part comedy drama (s) (7693838) 4.10 **Jackanory**. Pinar Devlin with the first of a three-part story *The Red Tree* (s) (5187944) 4.25 **Rude Dog and the Dweebies**. Animation (r) (3549825) 4.35 **Peter Pan and the Pirates**. (Ceefax) (s) (3304780)
5.00 **Newsworld** (4229983) 5.05 **Blue Peter**. Children's magazine series. (Ceefax) (s) (3471186)
5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (803019). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Jill Dando. (Ceefax) Weather (401)
6.30 **Regional News Magazines** (383). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 **El Dorado**. (Ceefax) (s) (1942)
7.30 **Watchdog**. Consumer affairs magazine presented by John Stapleton and Lynn Faulds Wood. (Ceefax) (895)
8.00 **Grace and Favour**. Comedy series with the ensemble staff of Grace Brothers in *Are You Being Served?* now working together running a country house hotel. This week Mr Humphries comes to the rescue when Mrs Stoombe faces humiliation by the arrival of her former husband whom she last saw when he popped out to the supermarket 42 years ago. Starring John Inman and Mollie Sugden. (Ceefax) (s) (905)
8.30 **Panama**. Comedy series set in Glasgow's sleazy boxing world. (Ceefax) (5857)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (8321)



American politics: Peter Jay at the White House (9.30pm)

- 9.30 **Panorama: The Road from Hope**. Peter Jay examines the mood of the United States two days before Bill Clinton becomes the first Democratic president for 12 years (804925)
10.10 **Film 93** with Barry Norman. Among the releases reviewed are *Night and the City* and *Deep Cover*. Plus Tom Sallick talking about his new film *Fools* - is serial dementia a suitable subject for a comedy? (384031). Northern Ireland: 29 Live
10.40 **Cagney and Lacey**. American policewoman drama series starring Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly (r) (Ceefax) (132418). Northern Ireland: 10.45 *Film 93* 11.15 *Cagney and Lacey*
11.30 **Carers**. Juliet Alexander looks at the problem of bullying at work (59553). Wales: *Film: Planet of the Apes* 1.20 **Carers** Ahead 1.50 **News and Weather**
12.00 **Weather** (5103838). Northern Ireland: (to 12.30) **Carers Ahead**

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BBC2

- 8.00 **Breakfast News** (4298031) 8.15 **Westminster** (4288654)
9.30 **Under the Salt**. Tailor-made for a Nile. A voyage by felucca, Egypt's traditional lateen-rigged craft (r) (2700437)
9.50 **A Week to Remember** (b/w). Pathe newsreel footage from 40 years ago this week (5364760)
9.00 **Daytime on Two**. Educational programmes
2.00 **News and Weather** followed by *Storytime* (r) (s) (90888708)
2.15 **Regional Westminster Programmes** (r) (421050). Northern Ireland: The Victorian Kitchen Garden 2.45 **Science and Society: Inland Waterways**. A look at Holland's link between the coast and the industrial hinterland (r) (3875963)
3.00 **News** (Ceefax) and weather (9125780) followed by *Songs of Praise* from Kensington Town Hall (r). (Ceefax) (s) (5354673) 3.40 **A Week to Remember**. Shown at 6.50am (8202115) 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather (4071499)
4.00 **Catchword**. Game for wordaholics hosted by Paul Coo (s) (296)
4.30 **Behind the Headlines** with Jane Corbin (708)
5.00 **Rave**. A documentary about a rave party attended by 5,000 young people in Newcastle upon Tyne (r) (7078)
5.30 **Front Garden**. Roderick Griffin brightens up two adjoining housing estate gardens (r). (Ceefax) (780)
6.00 **The Addams Family** (b/w). Classic ghoulish comedy series (Ceefax) (442128)
6.25 **DEF II** begins with *French Press* of *Be-Air*. American comedy series (s) (520470) 6.50 **Cyberzone**. Virtual reality game show. Olympic rows, the Searle brothers, take on a team of *Ranger Girl* (s) (783012)
7.20 **The Name of the Room: Plenty of Time for Play**.
● **CHOICE**. Gillian Darley, architectural critic of *The Observer* presents this interesting history of the kitchen, perhaps the most important room in a house. The subtitle comes from a wonderful 1930s film imagining the labour-saving kitchen of the future, the future being the 1950s. The housewife of the film appears to be wearing a plastic bag, but the prediction that there would be 'plenty of time for play' was accurate in the sense that washing machines, electric cookers and better kitchen design have taken much of the drudgery out of life. Darley points out however that today's obsession with design brings its own tyranny as we seek to turn our kitchens into laboratories or impossible farmhouse paradises. (Ceefax) (448706)



Health care: tuberculosis afflicts the homeless (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **Horizon: TB - the Forgotten Plague**.
● **CHOICE**. "An extremely ostracising, isolating disease". This is not a description of AIDS, but a disease which is highly infectious and causes great physical and emotional distress. Contrary to popular belief, TB never went away; it is prevalent in the Third World and even in the United States. Moreover, the 1980s and 1990s have seen an untold alliance forming between TB and HIV. Someone who has latent tuberculosis coupled with the HIV virus may quickly develop TB and full blown AIDS. The only good news is that this latest scare has forced health authorities to take radical action. This Christmas homeless people in London were tested for TB for the first time in decades and in Zambia very early diagnosis is already saving lives. (Ceefax) (s) (555768)
8.50 **Seam's** starring comedian Sean Hughes (s) (739944)
9.00 **Film: Firstborn** (1984) starring Teri Garr and Peter Weller. A credible but unappealing drama about a divorce, doing the best for her two children, who drift into a relationship with an unlikable character with a shady background. This leads to a repellent conclusion in the *Death Wish* mould. Directed by Michael Apted. (Ceefax) (5832)
10.30 **Newsworld** with Jeremy Paxman (741215)
11.15 **The Late Show**. Arts and media magazine (s) (801321)
11.55 **Behind the Headlines**. Shown at 4.30 (102470)
12.25am **Weather** (5104567). Ends at 12.35
2.00 **Nightwatch** TV. The first live programmes from *The World since 1945* (479535). Ends at 3.40

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **GMTV** introduced by Michael Wilson and Fiona Armstrong (7456147)
9.25 **Runway** Out show hosted by Richard Madeley (9836731) 9.55 **London Today** and weather (2257538)
10.00 **The Line ... The Place ...** Topical discussion (s) (5146627)
10.55 **The Morning Magazine** series presented by Lucy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes recipes, agony aunt Denise Robertson, slimming club and advice on family finance. Includes national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (54911302)
12.10 **Tots TV**. Puppet series (s) (9833586)
12.30 **ITN Lunchtime News**. (Teletext) Weather (9906545) 1.05 **London Today** and weather (5488892)
1.15 **Home and Away**. Australian family drama series. (Teletext) (404238) 1.45 **A Country Practice**. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (s) (438965)
2.15 **Capital Women**. Amanda Rice on the pleasures and pitfalls of being a London-based woman (s) (428876) 2.45 **Families**. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (s) (7780925)
3.10 **ITN News headlines** (9143166) 3.15 **London Today** (9142437)
3.20 **Blockbusters**. General knowledge quiz for teenagers. The question-master is Bob Holness (s) (1307447)
3.50 **The Real Ghostbusters**. Cartoon (r) (5013589) 4.15 **Harry's Mad**. Episode three of a six-part drama based on the novel by Dick King-Smith (s) (837401)
4.45 **Cartoon** (2441741) 4.50 **Brill** presented by John Eccleston (s) (3862760)
5.10 **Home and Away** (r). (Teletext) (3461505)
5.40 **Early Evening News**. (Teletext) Weather (598215)
6.00 **London Tonight** presented by Alistair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (76470)
7.00 **Wish You Were Here ...** Judith Chalmers reports from a theme park in Orlando, Florida; Michael and Elizabeth Aspel try a family holiday in Sardinia with their two sons; Victoria Studd looks at Landmark Trust properties to rent; and John Carter takes a short break. (Teletext) (s) (54701)
7.30 **Coronation Street**. (Teletext) (983)
8.00 **The Upper Hand**. Comedy series about a male housekeeper and his boss. Starring John McGarr and Diana Weston (s) (1418)
8.30 **World in Action: TB Strikes Back**. A documentary report on tuberculosis, the disease once thought to have been conquered but is now back in a new and terrifying form (4875)



Fifties debutante: Pinky Amador as the princess (9.00pm)

- 9.00 **Head Over Heels**. Drama series starring Jackie Morrison as a headstrong pupil at a finishing school where, this week, her nose is put out of joint by the arrival of a princess. (Teletext) (9383)
10.00 **News at Ten**. (Teletext) Weather (55898) 10.30 **London Tonight** and weather (341147)
10.40 **The Good Sex Guide**. Margi Clarke continues her light-hearted look at the pleasures of the flesh. Guests include Tony Robinson, Bernard Hill, Julia Hills and Haydn Gwynne. (Teletext) (890532)
11.10 **Film: The Hunters** (1974) starring Don Meredith and Jackie Cooper. Police thriller about two detectives investigating a string of brutal crimes. Directed by Richard Benedict (318031)
12.30am **The Best**. Music magazine presented by Gary Crowley. Guests include the Senseless Things and Jesus Jones (s) (95242)
1.30 **Sport**. All European club football and golf from California (43987)
2.30 **60 Minutes**. American news magazine (58161)
3.30 **Videofashion**. The film collections (96355)
4.00 **Hollywood Report**. Showbusiness gossip (r) (27600)
4.30 **Cinema**. Cinema. The latest releases reviewed by Richard Bled (r) (16141)
5.00 **Rivers**. Glossy French soap charting the fortunes of the aristocratic de Courcy family (70109)
5.30 **ITN Morning News** (85242). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.40 **Spiff and Hercules** (2252741)
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (57875)
8.00 **You Set Your Life**. Game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (689631)
9.30 **Schools** (163985)
12.00 **Right to Reply**. Includes studio discussion on *Brookside's* date rape episode (r) (Teletext) (s) (55498)
12.30 **Sesame Street**. Early learning series (65447) 1.30 **Lin Off**. Children's entertainment (s) (98892)
2.00 **Film: Postmark for Danger** (1955, b/w) starring Terry Moore and Robert Beatty. Thriller about a young man investigating the mysterious death of his brother in Italy. Directed by Guy Green (23147)
3.30 **Harriet's Dilemma**. A film from New Zealand about an eccentric old woman who dissects her life as she rummages through her rubbish (857)
4.00 **Call Out**. The last of two programmes about the work of the Langdale and Ambleside mountain rescue team (s) (682)
4.30 **Countdown**. Richard Whiteley with another round of the words and numbers game (Teletext) (s) (876)
5.00 **The Late Late Show**. Dublin's music and chat show hosted by Gay Byrne (s) (2385)
6.00 **Roseanne**. Widescreen comedy with Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (r) (Teletext) (741)
6.30 **The Cosby Show**. American domestic comedy series (321)
7.00 **Channel 4 News**. (Teletext) Weather (638272)
7.50 **It's Come To This**. The first of a night series of personal accounts about how the recession has affected different individuals (606944)
8.00 **Brookside**. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside estate (Teletext) (s) (720)
8.30 **Desmond's**. Lovable comedy set in a Peckham barber's in. (Teletext) (s) (1895)



Dawn raids: detectives combat white-collar crime (9.00pm)

- 9.00 **Cutting Edge: Fraud Squad**.
● **CHOICE**. This is apparently the first time that cameras have been given access to the fraud squad at work and the result is both illuminating and depressing. As we follow detectives on three different cases, the true nature of white-collar crime is exposed. There is the Nigerian common who has effectively robbed a Sheffield businessman of £54,000, there is the electrical shop which never pays its suppliers, and, sickeningly, there is the dodgy Hospital Fund Appeal Society where donations seem to have helped to pay for the administrator's mortgage and yacht. Investigations tend to involve dawn raids, some of which inspire, in one instance a Nigerian teenager quickly proves his innocence, his crime is he was wearing a T-shirt which reads: 'A friend with weed is a friend indeed.' (Teletext) (s) (7925)
10.00 **Northern Exposure**. Off-beat comedy about a New York doctor practising in an Alaskan town seemingly peopled by eccentrics. Starring Rob Morrow (s) (1352)
11.00 **Writing on the Line: Alexander Pushkin**.
● **CHOICE**. In this absorbing profile of great writer, Professor Gwyn A. Williams manages to be highly respectful of Pushkin's poetry yet entertainingly irreverent about the man Pushkin, it seems, was radical but not very radical. He wanted surdism abolished but only by the hand of the tsar. He supported the so-called Decembrist revolutionaries of 1825 but didn't actually demonstrate. This is not to say that he was a coward. All his life he stared a very difficult course between creative freedom and the whims of the tsar, who personally censured his work. By way of recreation, he gambled and took on endless women. In fact Williams argues that this frivolity coupled with 'a readiness to accept things the way they are' always undermined his political ideals (23769)
12.00 **Hollywood Legends**. A look at the life and career of Rock Hudson (r). (Teletext) (52703)
1.00 **The Twilight Zone: Caesar and Me**. A tale of the supernatural starring Jackie Cooper (8084871). Ends at 1.25

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except 2.15-2.45 *Van Clee* (307447) 3.20-3.50 *The Young Doctors* (341505) 4.50-5.00 *Tea Time* (341505) 5.05-5.15 *News* (304045) 5.15-5.30 *Regional News* (304045) 5.30-5.45 *Tea Time* (341505) 5.45-5.55 *News* (304045) 5.55-6.05 *Tea Time* (341505) 6.05-6.15 *News* (304045) 6.15-6.30 *Tea Time* (341505) 6.30-6.45 *News* (304045) 6.45-6.55 *Tea Time* (341505) 6.55-7.05 *News* (304045) 7.05-7.15 *Tea Time* (341505) 7.15-7.30 *News* (304045) 7.30-7.45 *Tea Time* (341505) 7.45-7.55 *News* (304045) 7.55-8.05 *Tea Time* (341505) 8.05-8.15 *News* (304045) 8.15-8.30 *Tea Time* (341505) 8.30-8.45 *News* (304045) 8.45-8.55 *Tea Time* (341505) 8.55-9.05 *News* (304045) 9.05-9.15 *Tea Time* (341505) 9.15-9.30 *News* (304045) 9.30-9.45 *Tea Time* (341505) 9.45-9.55 *News* (304045) 9.55-10.05 *Tea Time* (341505) 10.05-10.15 *News* (304045) 10.15-10.30 *Tea Time* (341505) 10.30-10.45 *News* (304045) 10.45-10.55 *Tea Time* (341505) 10.55-11.05 *News* (304045) 11.05-11.15 *Tea Time* 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Tate & Lyle wins \$200m Saudi deal

By COLIN NARBROUGH

NEIL Shaw, chairman of Tate & Lyle, has initiated heads of agreement with a Saudi partner to build a \$200 million sugar refinery in Jeddah, the biggest in the Middle East, to supply Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

Although the initial ceremony took place during last week's visit to Saudi Arabia by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, Tate & Lyle in London was unwilling to comment on the deal, beyond saying that it "continued to negotiate".

Mr Shaw was one of the senior British executives who accompanied Mr Heseltine on a mission designed to give Anglo-Saudi trade in the non-oil sectors fresh momentum. Increased inward investment by British firms with the backing of Saudi government finance and joint venture partners, is sought by Riyadh as part of the extensive offshoot programme under the Al Yamamah defence contract, worth an estimated £30 billion over the next decade.

Despite Tate & Lyle's reluctance to confirm the deal, it is understood an agreement is expected to be finalised soon that would allow work on the project to start this year. The Saudi partner, Savola, is the country's leading agri-business. Official funding for the deal, from the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF), was approved last week. Under the deal, SIDF provides 50 per cent of the capital.

Britain and Saudi Arabia have signed what is expected to be one of many offshoot joint venture deals as part of the giant Al Yamamah defence contract

commercial investors 25 per cent and Tate & Lyle and Savola jointly the remainder. The refinery, which will take an estimated two years to build, will have an annual capacity of 500,000 tonnes, making it among the biggest in the world. Its output will depend on continued imports of raw sugar, but will displace the imported refined product from the lucrative Saudi market, some of which is currently supplied by Tate & Lyle. Saudi sugar demand is for about 400,000 tonnes per year. The mill is expected to invest in the needs of the Gulf Co-operation Council states too.

The replacement of imported goods by domestically produced goods is a core element of the Saudi government's strategy of enhancing its industrial base. Tate & Lyle will supply the technology and know-how for the Jeddah refinery, as well as operate it. It is not clear whether the British company will have to put in any cash in return for its equity stake.

While analysts do not see the refinery having any significant impact on the world sugar market, where the Saudis have been extremely judicious buyers, the new refinery will give Tate & Lyle and its partners a dominant position in the region.

Through its joint venture in Saudi Arabia, Metal Box, another British company, has secured a hold on the Gulf market in aluminium cans and already exports to Europe.

The Tate & Lyle deal follows the finalisation early last summer of Glaxo's joint venture to produce drugs in Saudi Arabia. Trade and industry officials are hoping that this trickle of joint ventures could turn into a stream of similar deals.

Replacement of the 106 aircraft fleet of Saudi, the Saudi national airline, is one of the prizes sought for the British aerospace industry, either in its own right, or as a partner in the Airbus Consortium.



Shaw: trade delegate

Flying the flag, page 33



Woman at the top: Ruth Henderson, chief executive of Alexon, is one of five women to be in such a high post

Women struggle up corporate ladder

By JON ASHWORTH

ONLY a handful of women made it to the top of the British corporate ladder in the past year, despite a much-hailed drive by the government to encourage equal opportunities at work.

More than a year after the launch of Opportunity 2000, the number of female main board directors of UK-listed companies remains a negligible 0.54 per cent. The number of women managing directors and chief executives has risen from three to five out of more than 1,300, but the number of women chairmen has tumbled from five to two.

Ruth Henderson, chief executive of Alexon Group, the fashion retailer, joins Anita Roddick, managing director of Body Shop, and Bridget Towles, joint managing direc-

tor of Towles, the knitwear manufacturer, at the top for the second year running, according to the 1993 Crawford's Directory of City Connections, published today. This year's newcomers are Barbara-Anne Maxwell, managing director of Tamaris, the nursing home operator, and Michelle Kavanagh, joint managing director of Power Corporation, the Irish property developer. The two surviving women chairmen are Jean Tyrell at Sirdar, the textile manufacturer, and Aleksandra Clayton at Alexanders Holdings, the car dealer. Among those no longer in the chair is Bilge Nevat, Asil Nadir's sister, who formerly ran Noble Raredon.

The number of female finance directors has risen

from eight to eleven. Kathleen O'Donovan scored a double success last year when, at 34, she was appointed finance director of BTR, the industrial conglomerate. She was one of the few women to reach such a high boardroom position and one of the youngest executive directors of either sex to win such an appointment.

Despite some inroads by investor relations officers and company secretaries, less than 3 per cent of UK quoted company executives are women. Just under a fifth of investor relations officers are women and the proportion of female to male company secretaries has grown by 1.5 per cent to 7 per cent over the past year.

Adria Kinloch, editor of Crawford's, said the board-

room was likely to remain male-dominated. She said: "I think it's very depressing. Perhaps in ten years' time we will see a change." Women who create their own companies and take them to the stock market enjoy the best chance of success.

In a separate list, SG Warburg has knocked J Henry Schroder Waggs off the top of the merchant bank league table this year. Schroders is second, followed by Kleinwort Benson, Lazard Brothers and NM Rothschild.

Cazenove retains the crown as top stockbroker, followed by Rowe & Pitman and de Zoete & Bevan. Panmure Gordon rises from seventh to fourth place. Kleinwort Benson Securities falls one place to fifth.

Charter confirms JM stake sale talks

By JON ASHWORTH AND COLIN CAMPBELL

JOHNSON Matthey, the precious metals group, confirmed yesterday that Charter Consolidated is in talks to sell its 38.4 per cent stake in the company, ending an alliance that goes back to the late 1970s.

The shareholding is valued at £364 million based on Friday's closing JM price of 513p. Charter, led by Sir Michael Edwards, is negotiating to sell a stake of less than 30 per cent to an unnamed third party. The remainder is likely to be placed in the market or with other precious metal related parties.

Charter also confirmed that it is considering the disposal of its holding, Jeffrey Herbert, chief executive, said. "Charter's shareholding in JM represents more than 50 per cent of our market value. Our strategy has been for some time to bring as much as possible of our asset base under our direct management control. Accordingly, our board decided, as a matter of principle, that it was in the best interest of our shareholders to seek ways of realising this investment."

"At present it is not possible to say whether or not the current negotiations will be successful; nevertheless, it is in the interests of both Charter and JM to resolve the issue as quickly as possible."

The companies were reacting to weekend reports that a disposal was imminent. JM was quick to dampen speculation that a hostile party may be involved. Gordon Thornburn, a director, said: "We expect to change one substantial shareholder for another, if things develop as they are being talked about, we do not expect a period of uncertainty."

Neither side would comment on the identity of the buyer. The logical choice would be Rustenburg Platinum Holdings, the South African platinum group closely associated with Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI). Rustenburg's marketing agent, recently renegotiated its long standing contract with Rustenburg under which the relationship between the two is taken "well into the next century".

For Charter, the sale of its JM stake would remove a potential conflict of interest that Minorco, its major shareholder, has through its 30 per cent stake in Engelhard, the North American platinum group.

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

POSTPOSE

a. To postpone
b. A made model
c. Reposting letters by postman

SPARGANOSIS

a. A shrub that flowers in January
b. Blunderbuss lit crit
c. Infection by tapeworms

MASSAGETAE

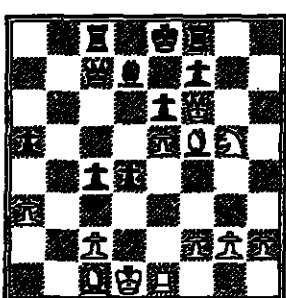
a. Thai massage parlours
b. Old Seythians
c. Uncial print forms
BEEVE
a. An ox or bullock
b. To work like a stallion
c. Pronouncing B as V, as in Greek

Answers on page 33

WINNING MOVE

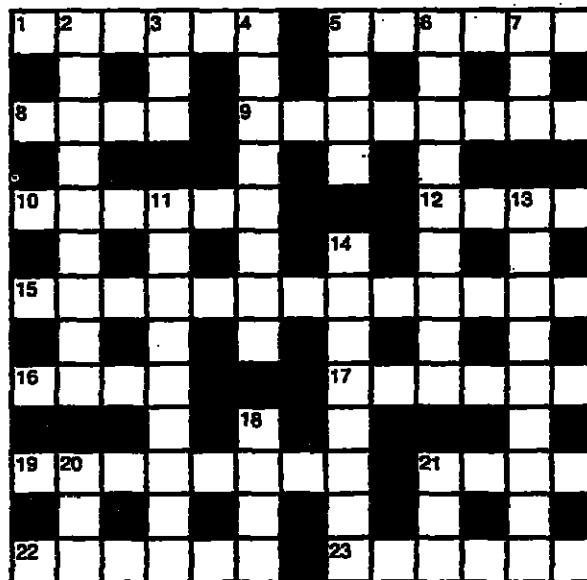
By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Nigel Short's Candidate's Final match against Jan Timman is currently in progress. This position is from a previous encounter. Short — Timman, Amsterdam 1988, and should encourage Nigel's fans. Why can black not capture the white bishop with 1... exf5?



Solution on page 33

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2998



ACROSS

1 Counting frame (6)
2 Actor's fool (6)
3 Old (4)
4 Ordinary shares (8)
5 Dull (6)
6 Failure (4)
7 Tease (4,4,2,3)
8 Eager (4)
9 Film box (6)
10 Tenant (6)
11 Imprecision (4)
12 Dozen (6)
13 Indicate (6)

DOWN

1 Pinball (9)
2 Ruminant's wad (3)
3 Motor-cycle track (8)
4 Spirit (4)
5 Not in condition (3,2,4)
6 Horse (3)
7 Settle up (3,2,4)
8 Respond excessively (4,5)
9 Taught (8)
10 Flower jug (4)
11 Crow noise (3)
12 Drained E Anglian marsh (3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2997

ACROSS: 1 Nonsense verse 8 Inter 9 Attempt 10 Nut 11 Heave 12 Holster 14 Chiddy 16 Banana 20 Retaken 23 Alien 24 Tai 25 Urinac 26 Evade 27 Disembarkment
DOWN: 1 Neighbourhood 2 Not bald 3 Earned 4 Swathe 5 Vital 6 Rymu 7 Entertainment 13 Son 15 IRA 17 Amaretto 18 Agitate 19 Embomb 21 Tuils 22 Krone

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software with help levels (runs on most PCs), call Atom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hrs) or CDS Distributor on (0202 890 000). Just released - the First Book of The Times Jumbo Concise Crosswords, £5.99, ring Atom.

Lonrho call opens way for Bock

By OUR CITY STAFF

ACCEPTANCE figures due to be published as stock markets open today will show that shareholder take-up of the £170 million rights issue by Lonrho, the mining-to-leisure group headed by Tiny Rowland, was minimal, as intended, opening the way for Dieter Bock, the German financier, to become the biggest holder with a stake of just under 19 per cent. The company yesterday dismissed any suggestion that Herr Bock is about to replace Mr Rowland, 75, as chief executive. Paul Spicer, Lonrho deputy chairman, said that Mr Rowland did not intend to step down for "at least three years".

Before the rights issue, Herr Bock had paid £15p per share for half of Mr Rowland's 15 per cent holding. The 85p rights issue was above the market price, which ended last week at 72p. Herr Bock has underwritten half the new shares, and other parties will be free until Tuesday afternoon to bid for the rump. Company sources sought to dismiss any link between Herr Bock's expected board place and the departure this spring of Roger Badger, 42, a director with 20 years' company service. His departure comes after the appointment of two younger directors, Nick Morrell and John Hewlett.

CONSUMER confidence fell dramatically in the last three months of 1992, despite the steep drop in interest rates, with the large majority taking the view that the economic situation had worsened, according to the latest Gallup-Business Strategies (BSL) survey.

The gloomy findings, based on a sample of 6,000, contrast starkly with the increasingly optimistic picture the government has started to paint.

Bridget Rosewell, joint managing director of BSL, said that, although consumer confidence had stabilised in the past six months, the Gallup-BSL findings suggested that "recovery may be still-born, unless confidence improves soon". It was difficult to obtain a clear picture, as anecdotal evidence was

patchy. Mrs Rosewell said. While some stores had done well in the pre-Christmas and sales period, others had not. Car registrations also appeared to be slipping again.

The survey, which collates data for October, November and December, shows consumer sentiment at its lowest for two years. In nearly all regions, consumers were markedly more pessimistic than during the Gulf war, reflecting concern over worsening unemployment and a possible pick-up in inflation.

While 57 per cent of respondents in the third quarter survey last year considered the economic situation had deteriorated over the past 12 months, the fourth quarter survey shows that 71 per cent took the view that the situation

had worsened. The worst slide in confidence was in Scotland, Yorkshire and Humberside.

Mrs Rosewell said that as the effects of the bad news of the autumn evaporate, consumers might become more confident, especially as the 3 point cut in interest rates since September feeds through to lower mortgage payments. □ Hopes of lower German interest rates were encouraged yesterday by Friedrich Oet, a Christian Democrat deputy and economics specialist. He claimed German interest rates would be cut by up to 1 point by March once the "solidarity pact" to secure savings in public spending had been agreed.

Financial firms hope, page 33
Economic View, page 34

Virgin targets BA Heathrow slots

By OUR CITY STAFF

VIRGIN Atlantic may be forced to put back its expansion plans by two years or more as a result of its clash with British Airways, it claimed this weekend.

Virgin had hoped to be flying to the world's 12 major business markets by 1995 with a fleet of 18 aircraft. However, much of 1992 was spent preparing for the legal showdown with BA, which ended in BA paying a £3.6 million libel settlement last week, and that has delayed its business plan.

Richard Branson, Virgin's chairman, is due to hold talks today with John MacGregor, the transport secretary, to discuss ways of winning up to 3 per cent of take-off and landing slots at Heathrow from BA. The government has no say in the allocation of slots — they are agreed by a committee of airlines using Heathrow and ultimately governed by EC ministers — but Mr Branson will ask Mr MacGregor to apply what pressure he can to speed up the process. He will also call for the establishment of a new regulatory



body. Ofair, to ensure fair competition in the aviation industry. He is keen to break BA's domination of routes such as Heathrow to Johannesburg, the most lucrative long-haul route in the world, which has been run as a duopoly by BA and South African Airways since 1946.

claims a shortage of available slots at Heathrow is holding it back.

BA holds 38 per cent of the Heathrow slots. British Midland has 14 per cent and Virgin has about 1 per cent. Mr Branson will use the threat of further court action in America to keep up pressure on BA. Virgin said it was seeking "a number of expressions of good faith" leading to BA agreeing to a new climate of competition. "We want real, hard and legally binding commitments on product, efficiency and price. If we don't get them, we will sue the pants off them," a Virgin spokesman said.

BA's board meets on Friday to discuss the internal investigation into the dirty-tricks campaign against Virgin. A spokesman said any suggestion that BA should give up slots because of an "unfortunate" experience with Virgin was "patently ridiculous". A revised BA deal with USAir is expected to be announced this week. BA's plan to buy a 44 per cent stake in the American carrier was rejected by the US government last month.

Leading article, page 15

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